

Indian Olympic Association

In 1896, First modern Olympics games were held at Athens because of the initiative of Baron de Coubertin. India participated in these competitions for the first time in 1900. The reward for the organization of Olympic association in India goes to Y.M.C.A and in this task Dr. A.C. Nohran and H.C. Buck have made the maximum contribution. Because of the efforts of these two persons, Indian Olympic Association came into existence in 1927. And Sh Dorav G. Tata was made its founder President and Dr. A.C. Nohran the secretary. Similarly Sh. G.D. Sondhi was made the first assistant secretary Indian Olympic association became the member of International Olympic Association in 1927.

Indian Olympic Association is the federation of various Indian Sports Associations i.e. State Olympic Association, Railway Sports control Board and Services Sports Control Board. At the state level, all the sports Associations of the state jointly establish it. Similarly at the district level, all the Sports Associations of the district are its members. Indian Olympic Association is elected once in four years and is as under :

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| President | One |
| Senior Vice President | One |
| Vice-Presidents | Eleven |
| General Secretary | One |
| Joint Secretaries | Six |
| Treasurer | One |

nineteen (19) members are elected from the State Olympic associations. Nine members are elected from National Sports Association, Railway Sports Control Board and Services Sports Control Board.

All these members are elected for four years and they cannot remain members for more than eight years.

Functions

To make special arrangements of sports for the professional players in India as a result of which the qualities of physical, cultural and feeling of being an Indian could be produced.

It is essential for the Indian Olympic Association to follow the rules of International Olympic Association.

It is the responsibility of the Indian Olympic Association to make use of the Olympic flag and stamp on behalf of India to solve the Olympic matters in the country and to abide by the Olympic charter.

It is also the responsibility of Indian Olympic Association to allow various Indian Sports Associations to participate into the International competitions and also to provide financial help for these competitions.

It is also its duty to constitute State Olympic Association in different states of India and also to supervise the expenditures of these State Sports Associations.

It is also its duty to celebrate Olympic week in the month of August every year and to give awareness about this movement to the country men.

Indian Olympic Association arranges different Sports competitions once every year.

Popular Sports Competitions in India

Every body has the feeling of competition in him which helps him to achieve honour and prestige. Though in ancient times, the sports competitions were very dangerous but with the passage of time, these have become very friendly. In the modern time, the feeling of competition is inculcated for the

satisfaction of inner urge of a person. A person not only achieves skill through it but gains an expertise over it. Thus, he achieves higher goals in the game. The competitions not only provide recreation but freshness also. Consequently a person remains invigorated and healthy. Although in ancient times, more stress was laid on horse riding, archery, javelin throw and wrestling yet with the passage of time and by the contact of the English people, games like hockey, football, cricket and athletics became very popular in India and national level competitions of these games started. The following competitions are very popular :

Hockey

The game of hockey is very old in India. But the hockey which is played these days came to India after the contact of Britishers. Before the advent of the Britishers in India, hockey was popular in the shape of a stick and home spun ball, But gradually, clubs of this game got established at various places. The first hockey club in India for the game of hockey came into existence in 1895 at Kolkata. By the contact of British soldiers, hockey came to Punjab in 1903 in the shape of university competitions and Punjab Hockey Association was established in 1925. After the partition of the country, Punjab Hockey Association was revived. Punjab participated in the national championship for the first time in 1927.

Ranga Swami Cup (National Hockey Championship)

Indian Hockey Association which was constituted in Gwalior in 1925 arranged the first national championship in 1927. These competitions are known as National Hockey Competition. In 1935, a Newzealander named Morris presented a shield to be given to a person for getting first position in this championship. In the beginning this championship

was held once in two years from 1928 to 1944.

The original shield remained in Pakistan due to the partition of India because Punjab had won the championship held in 1946 and the secretary of Punjab Hockey Association of that time Bakhshish Sheikh stayed in Pakistan.

After the partition of the country "Hindu" newspaper of Madras and the owner of sports and past time donated a new cup for this national championship in the name of their editor "Ranga Swami" consequently, this championship is remembered as "Ranga Swami" cup now. For getting second position in this championship shield is given by "Manav Dar" and for third position by "Mes. Oberoi."

After 1947, this championship was arranged annually and this championship was arranged by Indian Hockey Association with the help of any one of its member state Associations. Uttar Pradesh has the honour of winning this championship for the first time and Punjab won it in 1949 for the first time. Initially this competition was held on knock out basis but these days, this competition is held on league-cum-knock out basis.

Beighton Cup Kolkata

It is one of the oldest tournaments of India which was arranged for the first time in 1895. This cup was donated by the then legal remembrancer of Bengal Sh. T.D. Beighton. So these competitions came to be known as Beighton Cup. Naval V.A.C. had the honour of getting it for the first time. Unluckily the original cup got stolen from the Railway Institute Asansol but the club of this institute got made a new cup exactly like the original one which is presented to the winner team upto this time. This championship is arranged by Bengal Hockey Association every year on the basis of knockout and Indian teams of very high level participate into it. Punjab Police won this cup for the first time in 1966.

Agha Khan Cup Bombay

Maharaja Agha Khan donated this cup for the first time in 1896 for this championship which is known as Agha Khan Cup Championship. It was won by "Cheshire Regiment" permanently in 1912 but Maharaja Agha Khan donated another cup for this championship which is given to the winner team upto now. First of all, "Bombay Gymkhana" had the honour of winning it and Punjab Police won it for the first time from the side of Punjab in 1949. Every year this championship is arranged by the Agha Khan Tournament Committee and teams of very high level participate in it. These days this championship is held on the basis of knockout.

Bombay Gold Cup

In 1955, a gold cup worth Rs. 10,000/- was given out of the State Fund of Bombay State which came to be known by the name of Bombay Gold Cup. This competition is arranged by the Bombay Hockey Association every year. High level teams of the country participate in it. Before 1958, teams from Pakistan used to participate in it. This championship is held on knock out cum league basis. First of all this championship was won by one Bombay club "Lusitanian" and "Punjab Horse" won it for first time in 1958 from the side of Punjab.

All India Senior Nehru Hockey Competition

Nehru Hockey Tournament committee started this tournament in 1964 at New Delhi in the memory of First Prime Minister of India Sh. Jawahar Lal Nehru which is known as Nehru Hockey Competition. Japan Hockey association donated a trophy to be given to the team getting third place in this competition. This competition is held on the basis of knockout cum league every year and national and international teams of high level participate in this competition. This competition was

won first of all by the "Northern Railway Team" of Delhi. The most important matter of this competition is that every year, the President of India does the prize distribution.

All India Junior Nehru Hockey Competition

For the development of the game of hockey in India and for searching the talent in junior players, Nehru Hockey Tournament Committee Organizes this competition every year at New Delhi. In this competition, teams of players of a school upto 16 years of age from the different states of India participate. The Education Department of Indian government awards scholarships to players who exhibit good game. This competition is held every year on league cum knock out basis and its final competition is held on November 14.

Foot Ball

The game of football is very old. It was even played two centuries before Christ in China. In the fifth century, this game was played in a four cornered playground among eight players. In Greece, the game of football was played religiously. This game became popular in England in the fourteenth century. The rules for this game were made in 1863.

This game became popular in India because of the contact of British soldiers and the first football tournament was organized by the English people in 1895 known as "Durand Cup". To make this game more popular and effective, tournaments were arranged at different places in India. Thus, this game began to be played in every season.

Santosh Trophy

A trophy was given for the National football competition in the name of Maharaja Santosh who was the ruler to kuch Bihar which is known as Santosh Trophy. This competition is arranged by Indian Football Association with the help of one

of its member associations every year. Different teams from various states of Indian and teams of Railway and forces participate in this competition. These competitions are held on knock out cum league basis. This competition is won by Bengal for the maximum times and Punjab won this trophy for the first time in 1970.

Durand Cup

The game of football is considered incomplete in India without Durand. This cup was donated by the foreign Secretary of British India Sh. Mortimore Durand in 1895 for the competitions of British soldiers. The honour of winning this cup for the first time went to "21 Royal falshire". It was won permanently by "Black war Regiment" in 1899 and Sir Mortimore gave another cup for this competition which is still given to the winner team. These competitions were made open for other teams also besides the army in 1931 and from among the civil teams, "Patiala Tiger" has the honour of playing the very first match.

Since 1950, this tournament is organized by Durand Football Committee every year at New Delhi in place of Shimla on knockout-cum-league basis. Teams of national and international repute participate in it.

Rover Cup

This is one of the Indian football competition which is organized by the Rover Cup Tournament Committee every year. Reputed teams from all over India participate in it.

Junior Durand (Suvroto Cup)

This competition is organized in the memory of the Indian pilot the late Marshal Savroto Mukherjee at New Delhi by the Durand Committee for the football players of 16 years of age, studying in the same school. The aim of this competition

is to look for the budding talent of the players at the school level. The Indian government awards scholarships to the players who make a show at good game in this competition every year.

Cricket

Although the game of Cricket is not popular throughout the world, yet wherever it is played, people love it. Information about this game is available since 1750 but the present cricket in India is because of the contact of Britishers. Although the first cricket match was played in India before the advent of the Britishers yet for the sake of competition, a match was organized between the Military Team and the team of Bombay in 1797 First Indian cricket club was established at Madras in 1846. Thus by and by, the game of cricket became popular in the states of India. For the development of the game of cricket, the state of Patiala made the maximum contribution as a result of which the cricket matches were organized at various places in India.

Ranji Trophy

A meeting of the cricket admirers was held at Shimla in 1934 under the chairmanship of "Sir Sikander Hyat" in which they expressed a desire to hold competition at the national level. Consequent to this meeting "Sir Bhupinder Singh Maharaja Patiala" donated a trophy in the name of a great Indian player "Ranjit Singh" for the national competitions as a result of which the national Cricket competitions were known by the name of "Ranji Trophy". These competitions are organized every year by the Cricket Control Board of India at the inter state level. These inter state competitions are held on the basis of norther, southern, eastern, western and central zones . The state who becomes winner in these zonal level competitions, participates in the next competition according to the knock out system. Zonal competitions are held on league

basis. First match was played in 1934 between Mysore (Karnataka) and Madras (Tamil Nadu), but Bombay got the honour of winning the maiden competition. Bombay won this competition for 15 times continuously. Besides the teams of states, Railway sports control board and services sports control board also participate in this competition.

C.K. Naidu Trophy

School games federation of India organized this competition for the school children of different states every year in the name of a famous cricket player "C.K. Naidu". This competition is held on the base of knock out system.

EXERCISE

1. Write in detail about the Indian Olympic Association.
2. Write a note about the main sports competitions.
3. Write a note on the following:

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| (a) Ranga Swami Cup | (b) Agha Khan Cup |
| (c) Bombay Gold Cup | (d) Beighton Cup |
| (e) All India Nehru "Senior" Hockey Competition. | |
| (f) All India Nehru "Junior" Hockey Competition | |
4. Write a note on the following :

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| (a) Durand Cup | (b) Rovers Cup |
| (c) Savroto Cup | (d) Ranji Trophy |
| (e) C.K. Naidu Trophy | |
5. Write the names of the president, general secretary of the Indian Olympic Association elected in the year 1927.
6. Where were held first modern olympic games.