



Sports Schemes in India

Introduction

From the day one of Independence of our country Govt. of India has been making efforts to do something for the promotion of games and sports in the country. Some of the major efforts made in this direction by the Govt. of India are being discussed. This is a different story that despite the best efforts of the Govt. desired results could not be achieved.

1.0 RAJ KUMARI AMRIT KAUR SPORTS COACHING SCHEME

On the completion of two stadia namely National Stadium in Delhi and Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium in Bombay the then Union Minister for Health, Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur got an idea that the facilities provided in these stadia should be profitably utilised for the gradual uplift of our sports standards. In summer 1952 she approached the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru with a pilot Project for organised Sports Coaching in the Country. The Project presented by her appealed to Nehru and the Government of India sanctioned Rs. 75,000 for the same. The project was launched in September, 1953. The scheme had the aim to

provide sportsmen with such technical help and guidance as would enable them ultimately to grow to their full stature. The scheme had full-support of the centre govt, to achieve the purpose.

During its four years (1953-57) life the scheme had more than made out a case for :

- (1) The need for sports coaching as an indispensable pre-requisite for sustained performance in national and international competitions.
- (2) The need for continued Governmental subsidy and patronage to keep this programme going in the years to come.

An important feature of this scheme was that its terms of reference have been so flexible as to afford maximum adaptability to the needs of the times and demands made on it. The scheme was launched as an experimental project keeping in mind the demand for quick results. The main focus was on the elite sports persons in the country keeping in view the champions and near champions in mind. Another reason for the concentration on the top level sportsmen was that they were then preparing for various

State and National Championships. It was thought that the coaching would be effective on the top level players since they should attain a minimum standard of proficiency in their respective sport. Another aspect of the scheme was to categorise the sports in terms of their specific needs and resources at their disposal. In the employment of coaches and their assignment, the authorities took this into account and proceeded in their task accordingly.

During 1953-54 the scheme engaged the services of four Indian and one foreign coach to cover Athletics, Hockey, Tennis, Cricket and Table Tennis. All the coaches engaged in were having impressive record of achievement in their account. They tackled only the top level sportsmen and produced the desired results. The Government was very happy with their performance. As a result their work was rewarded with a grant of rupees two lacs for the financial year 1954-55. The authorities, then could concentrate on a concerted and long-range programmes to attain their objectives.

In the light of the results obtained within first six months and to continue the scheme with the zeal, three more games i.e. Football, Volleyball, and Badminton were included to the original list of sports to be covered by the scheme. There was great demand of coaches from different parts of the country. Eight coaches were not enough to help elite sportsmen of all states. Keeping in view the situation the scheme authorities shifted the emphasis on the production of sports coaches because the success and future stability of the project was alone dependent upon them. To fulfil this demand of the scheme, that year five foreign experts and sports stars visited India. The scheme and its coaches brought laurels through their trainees winning in India and abroad. These encouraging reports forced the government to be more generous in the following year i.e. 1955-56. During that financial year the scheme was rewarded with a grant of rupees three lacs. With availability of more funds it became

possible for the scheme authorities to extend the scope and sphere of the scheme activities while continuing with its existing commitments.

The year 1955-56 was one of the brightest in the life of the scheme. During this year the cream of international coaches and sportsmen of international repute visited our country. To help this project, words of encouragement and advice to the trainees were provided by including the sports stars like American athlete Jesse Owens, Czech man Emil Zatopek and his wife Dana Zatopek. Interaction with such distinguished sports personalities boosted the morale of the Indian sportsmen and widened the horizon of Indian coaches. In the year permanent coaching schools were established in Delhi and Bombay. Additional coaches were employed for exclusive focussing on school and college athletes in these centres. That year the scheme succeeded in preparing a sizeable number of coaches for all sport activities. The scheme authorities were free to turn its focus to schools and colleges, the youth and young players who could benefit from coaching.

To cover the aforementioned sections of players became the scheme's prime objective when during the next financial year the centre government grant rose to rupees four lacs. More coaches were employed on full time basis to meet the demands of schools and colleges in the country. The assignment to the foreign coaches was kept to the barest minimum of two. The money saved on the employment of foreign coaches was utilised for having more coaching camps at various centres.

Gradually, the emphasis, shifted to the schools and colleges, the nurseries of sports and sports talent, grant of sports scholarship/stipends and conducting tournaments for the different sections of the society.

It was for the first time in the history of Indian sport that coaching had to be accepted as an inevitable necessity. When Indian sportsmen talk of coaching they undoubtedly associate it with the Raj Kumari Coaching

Scheme. To have achieved this alone was a success enough.

2.0 NETAJI SUBHAS NATIONAL INSTITUTE SPORTS PATIALA

In 1958, third Asian Games were held in Tokyo (Japan) where India gave a very poor performance specifically in Hockey. We lost to Pakistan in the finals. The defeat in Hockey gave a major shock to the Govt. of India and all concerned with sports in our country. In view of the poor show given by the Indian teams Govt. of India set up an Ad-hoc Enquiry Committee in 1958 to study the causes of low standards in sports in the country and to suggest ways and means to improve the deteriorating situation. The chairman of the committee was Maharaja Yadavindra Singh of Patiala. The committee recommended to establish a "Central Training Institute to Provide First Class Coaches in Different Sports and Games".

A committee consisting of two members of the All India Council of Sports—Shri M.K. Kaul and Shri M.N. Kapoor, were deputed by the Govt. of India to the Olympic Games held at Rome in 1960. The committee also visited other countries to study their sports institutions and sports organisations. This committee constituted as per the recommendations made by the AD-HOC Enquiry Committee, known as Kaul-Kapoor Committee submitted the report in 1961.

On the basis of the Ad-hoc Enquiry Committee's report, the All India Council of Sports advised the Govt. of India to abolish the Raj Kumari Sports Coaching Scheme and establish National Institute of Sports at Patiala. Dr. K.L. Shrimali, the then Union Education Minister opened the National Institute of Sports on 7th May, 1961. The NIS was renamed, "Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports" on the 76th birth anniversary of Netaji. It was set up with the twin objectives i.e. to give a scientific orientation to the coaching profession in the country and to provide systematic and

scientific coaching to our national teams in various sports disciplines for participation in International Competitions.

2.1 Functions of NSNIS, Patiala

1. To promote sports in the country.
2. To produce high calibre coaches.
3. To organise IOC solidarity courses, International clinics, scientific congresses, seminars, workshops and conferences etc.
4. To train the teams for Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games.
5. To give proper scientific coaching to the sportspersons of the country.
6. To organise the National Sports Championship for women.
7. To organise Rural Sports Tournaments.
8. To give sports scholarships like the sports talent search scholarship scheme to school students (10 + 2), College/ University students, National Women Championship, who were doing Ph.D./ M.Phil. MS Diploma in Sports Coaching.
9. To import essential sports equipment and to manufacture indigenous sports equipment by the sports industry.
10. To establish the Sports Hostels near the Regional Coaching Centres.
11. To publish literature on games and sports.

2.2 Courses Offered By National Institute of Sports (Now SAI-Academic Wing)

1. Diploma course in Sports Coaching at Patiala, Bangalore and Calcutta.
2. Six week certificate course for physical education teachers and others to encourage mass participation in sports.
3. Regular courses to produce well qualified coaches.
4. Master of sports coaching, affiliated and recognised by the Punjabi University, Patiala.

5. Post Graduate Diploma in Sports Medicine affiliated with Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (Punjab).
6. Refresher courses of three weeks duration for in service coaches.

To begin with, in order to run the above mentioned courses, the NIS requisitioned the services of foreign experts in various sports disciplines for producing high calibre coaches. Now the institute can feel proud of producing coaches in major sports discipline through its regular and master's course, who are not only in great demand within the country but abroad too. The institute has strong links with world fame sports institutions through cultural exchange programmes. To fulfil the scientific requirements of all training programmes at the institute, the faculty of sports sciences have been set up which include various departments such as the departments of sports medicine, exercise physiology, bio-chemistry, physiotherapy, anthropometry, bio-mechanics, training methods, statistics, kinesiology, sports psychology, audio-visual aids, publications, library etc, to cope with the requirements of the coaches.

The faculty of sports sciences launched one year Post-Graduate Diploma course in sports medicine for selected doctors from different parts of the country w.e.f. the academic session 1986-87 in collaboration with the Punjabi University, Patiala.

In its expansion programme, the Institute has opened the branches of NIS in each state and the special projects like, High Altitude Training Centres at Shillaroo, Winter Sports Centre at Manali, Yachting Centre at Bombay, Rowing Centre in Jaipur and sports Hostels in all states. To ensure better coaching facilities in Indian Universities, the Institute has set up SNIPES Field Stations in most of the universities of the country.

It is pertinent to mention here that till 1987 NS NIS was working under the Society for

National Institute of Physical Education and Sports. Since May, 1987 it has been merged with SAI in order to adopt an integrated approach towards promotion and awareness of Sports. At present it is known as SAI NS NIS and all its centres and schemes are working as SAI sports centres/schemes.

3.0 SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), a successor organisation of the IX Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982, was set up as a society registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860, in accordance with the Resolution No. 1-1/83-SAI dated 25.01.84 of the Department of Sports, Govt. of India. It was established with the objective of promotion of games and sports in the country. It was also assigned the responsibility of maintaining and utilising the existing stadia in Delhi which were constructed/renovated during the IX Asian Games. Subsequently, in order to adopt an integrated approach towards promotion and development of Sports awareness, Society for National Institutes of Physical Education and Sports (SNIPES) was merged with SAI w.e.f. May, 1987.

SAI is an apex body for promotion of sports in the country. The General Body is being headed by successive Prime Ministers as its President. The Governing Body of SAI is headed by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development and has Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports as its Vice Chair person. As per the SAI Rules the General Body should generally meet annually whereas the Governing body should ordinarily meet atleast once in each quarter of the financial year.

Secretary SAI is the Member Secretary of the General Body and the Governing Body.

In the year 1998 the General Body and Governing Body of SAI was reconstituted by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministers of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India. Unlike in the past, Hon'ble Prime

Minister is now the ex-officio President of the General Body of SAI.

3.1 Composition of the General Body and the Governing Body

General Body—The General Body has 43 members out of which 16 are ex-officio members and 27 are non-official members who are nominated by the Govt of India, under different categories.

Governing Body—Governing Body has 28 Members out of which 16 are nominated by the Govt. of India and the remaining 12 are ex-officio members.

3.2 The Objectives of Sports Authority of India

To promote and develop sports-activities relating and incidental thereto, and to draw up and implement plans for the promotion of sports and improvement of standards in the country in sports and games in keeping with the Sports Policy of the Government of India.

- To implement and carry out the existing schemes for the promotion of sports and for improvement of standards in the country in sports and games, as may be entrusted to it by the Govt. of India or other bodies, from time to time.
- To initiate, undertake, sponsor, stimulate and encourage research and development in sports and games and the related sports sciences.
- To plan, develop, construct, acquire, take over, manage, maintain and utilise sports infrastructure sports, facilities and ancillary buildings, play-fields, land, etc., in Delhi and other parts of the country.
- To plan, develop, construct, acquire, take over, manage, maintain and utilise residential facilities for sportspersons, coaches, officials, etc., whether as part of the stadia or separately, in Delhi and other places in the country.
- To hold, sponsor, organise, manage, and arrange, on its own and to offer facilities for tournaments, coaching camps, exhibition matches and other sports activities.
- To establish, run, manage, and administer institutions existing or new, and to perform the activities and functions of such institutions wholly or partially.
- To constitute or cause to be constituted centres at convenient places in India to promote sports
- To initiate, sponsor and encourage research in sports equipments in the country;
- To provide and give technical and other assistance, sports equipment, sports facilities and expert guidance to organisers for the organisation and conduct of National and International
- To provide for education, training and facilities for imparting advance coaching in various games and sports.
- To take steps for the welfare of sports persons, sports officials and the like, and to run benevolent schemes for active veteran and retired sports persons or officials, including coaches.
- To coordinate amongst and to cooperate with State Govt. State Sports Councils, Indian Olympic Association or National Sports Federations or other similar national or international associations or bodies, in matters relating to sports and games and other allied subjects.
- To advise Govt. of India, State Govt. Union Territory Administrations, on all matters relating to promotion of sports and games and improvement of sports standards which may be referred to it by the Govt. of India and other authorities as well as on other sports matters on which it may like to make recommendations on its own to Govt. of India and other such authorities.

- To organise seminars, conferences, etc. in the field of sports and allied matters.
- To undertake, sponsor and encourage publication of journals and literature relating to sports and games.
- To institute, offer and grant prizes, awards, scholarships and stipends in the implementation of these objects.
- To accept and collect donations, grants and gifts, and to undertake management of any endowment or trust fund and to make donations, grants and gifts for the purposes of these objects.
- To borrow and raise money, with or without security or on security, of moveable and immovable properties, belonging to the Society provided that the prior approval of the Govt. of India is obtained, in that behalf.
- To acquire, purchase or otherwise, own, take on lease or hire movable and immovable properties and to sell, mortgage, transfer or otherwise dispose of any such movable and immovable properties, but the prior approval of the Govt. of India in respect of such immovable properties shall be obtained;
- To do all such acts and things as the Society may consider necessary, conducive or incidental to the attainment or enlargement of the aforesaid objects or any one of them.

Keeping in view the requirement and level of students only four functional wings namely — Academics, Operations Stadia and Teams, of SAI with regard to its functions are being discussed.

3.3.1 Academic Wing

It is further subdivided into two wings :

- Academic Wing for sports
- Academic wing for Physical Education.

Academic wing for sports is situated at Patiala and is known as SAI Netaji Subas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS). It offers the following courses and facilities :

- (1) Diploma Courses of 12 months duration for training sports persons in coaching.
- (2) Master's Course in Sports coaching of two years duration.
- (3) Diploma Courses in Sports Medicine of two years duration.
- (4) Certificate courses in Sports of six weeks period for physical education teachers and a refresher course for in-service coaches.
- (5) International Olympic committee solidarity courses, seminars/workshops/clinics are conducted from time to time.
- (6) Scholarships are offered annually to Doctors/Scientists and Project grant is given to selected institutions to

3.3 Functions of Sports Authority of India

The function of SAI falls under the following functional wings each headed by an Executive Director :

No.	Name of the Wing	Location of Office
1.	Academics	(a) NetajiSubhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala. (b) Lakhmibai National College of Physical Education, Trivandrum.
2.	Finance	Located in the Corporate Office, New Delhi.
3.	Operations	
4.	Personnel and Vigilance	
5.	Stadia	
6.	Teams	

encourage them for research in different components of sport sciences.

- (7) This wing also offers and implement the sports schemes such as Sports Talent Search Scholarship Scheme and All India Rural Sports Tournament, National Sports Festival for Women and North East Sports Festival.

The academic wing for Physical Education and Research in Physical Education is located at Trivandrum and known as Lakshmibai National College of Physical Education (LNCPE). This college was established by the Govt. of India on August 17, 1985 with the objective of providing sports facilities for the upliftment of Physical Education and Sports in the country and to serve as a model Institute for Teachers Training. The College is affiliated to the University of Kerala. This college offers Bachelor degree in Physical Education of three years duration and Master's degree in Physical Education of two years duration.

NOTE : The LNCPE Gwalior which was also earlier under this Academic wing of SAI stands delinked from the administrative control of SAI w.e.f. 2nd September, 1995 after being conferred the status of a 'Deemed University'.

3.3.2 Operations Wing

This wing consists of Directorate of Sports Promotion in Education Sector (SPES), Special Area Games (SAG) and Infrastructure. The first two Directorates aim at spotting and nurturing young talented children in different age groups through promotional schemes like National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC), Sports Training Centres (STC). The third Directorate of infrastructure is the nodal agency for monitoring the progress of capital works such as laying of artificial/synthetic surfaces for different disciplines, Gymnasium Complexes, Swimming Pools, Boxing and Judo Halls, Hostels for boys and girls, Guest Houses, Sports Science blocks and Administrative buildings and so on.

The talented children spotted under various schemes at the optimum age level in different discipline are provided scientific training at the centres of schemes in order to achieve excellence at the National and Junior International Level. At present SAI is implementing three types of schemes for the development and promotion of sports at grass root level in the country.

The schemes are

(a) **Sub-Junior Scheme**—It consists of Army Boys Sports Companies, National Sports Talent Contest Schemes and National coaching scheme. This scheme caters for school going children in the age group of 8 to 17 years.

(b) **Junior Level Schemes**—Under this scheme children are selected from Tribal areas/specific geographical conditions which have tradition of specific sports. They are also included under the Special Area Games Schemes. The children are admitted to SAI training Centres in the age group 14 to 21 years.

(c) **Centre of Excellence**—Under this scheme talented sportspersons in the age group of 16-21 years from SAI Schemes as well as the schemes being run by the state Govts/U.T.s are selected for scientific training for achieving excellence.

3.3.3 Stadia Wings

The Stadia wing consists of the Stadia Directorate. This Directorate is responsible for formulating policy guidelines for utilisation of different facilities created in the above stadia with the twin objective of raising the resources for SAI and to have broad-base sports.

The following stadia were constructed/renovated for IX Asian Games held at New Delhi in 1982 by the Govt. of India and the SAI being custodian of these stadia has been entrusted with the responsibility of their day to day maintenance and utilisation

1. Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium.
2. National Stadium
3. Talkatora Swimming Pool.

4. Indira Gandhi Stadium.
5. Cycling Velodrome
6. Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges.

3.3.4 Team Wing

This Wing consists of the Directorate of Teams, Equipment Support, and the Dope Control Lab.

Directorate of Teams : The Directorate of teams is responsible for long term training of selected elite sports persons to prepare them for International Competitions like Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and the Olympic Games. All matters relating to the deployment of foreign coaches / visit by foreign experts for training the national teams are also dealt with by this Directorate. The main task of this wing is to play a supportive role by providing training facilities, boarding and lodging, sports equipment, foreign coaches for training of the National Teams with scientific backup at SAI centres.

Directorate of Equipment Support : The Directorate of Equipment Support imports sports / scientific equipment required for training National teams. They also finalise the rate contract of indigenous sports equipment. The Directorate also makes available sports equipment on loan basis for National and International competitions.

Directorate of Dope Control Lab : The Directorate of Dope Control Lab is located at Jawahar Lal Nehru stadium. It aims at detecting banned drugs taken by sports persons to enhance performance.

3.4 Regional Centres of SAI

The Sports Authority of India has six Regional Centres with Headquarters at Bangalore (Southern Centre), Calcutta (Eastern Centre), Chandigarh (Northern Centre), Delhi (Central Central), Gandhinagar (Western Centre) and Imphal (North Eastern Centre).

- The Southern Centre at Bangalore has been developed as a Centre of Excellence

with all modern facilities. A centre of Excellence for Hockey was also set up in Bangalore on 12.09.97.

- SAI has a West Zone Training Centre at Aurangabad, Sub-Centre at Guwahati and High Altitude Centre at Shillaroo (Near Shimla).
- Sport facilities of international standards have been/are being created at these Centres to meet the needs of coaching and training of national/state teams for participation in various national and international competitions. The sports facilities available at these Centres are also made available to sports lovers and general public under regular Coaching and Training under Pay and play Schemes. The schemes not only increase the utilisation of these facilities but also help in creating sports consciousness.
- Keeping in view the importance of Sports Science in Sports, Sports Science Labs are being upgraded.
- Apart from SAI NSNIS, Patiala, the Regional Centres at Bangalore and Calcutta have facilities for conducting Diploma Courses in Coaching and Certificate Course in different disciplines.
- Each Regional Centre is under a Regional Director/Director Incharge who is responsible for effective implementation of sports development programmes/schemes of SAI and the Central Govt.
- To supervise the implementation of various sports programmes in the region, each Regional Centre has an Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports and State Sports Minister, eminent sportspersons and physical education experts from the concerned states. The concerned Regional Director/Director incharge is the Member Secretary of the Regional Advisory Committee for their region.