



“Improving the State of Sports in India”

Collective inputs from over 200,000 Citizens in circle

“Transform India with Modi”

(Current State, Issues, Root Causes and Proposed Solutions)

September 11, 2015

Improving the State of Sports in India

Executive Summary

The history of sports in India is very ancient and dates back to the Vedic era. It is more likely that many of today's Olympic disciplines are advanced versions of games of strength and speed that flourished in ancient India. Chess, wrestling, polo, archery and hockey (possibly a fall-out from polo) are some of the games believed to have originated in India. But the situation has deteriorated over the years and other than cricket, India does not have much of a standing in most sports with cricket being the only exception.

The 200,000+ strong “Transform India with Narendra Modi” online community has come together to collectively identify the key issues, root causes and solutions for Improving the State of Sports in India and the community expects that the Government will work towards implementing the identified solutions.

Issues Identified:

1. Many sports bodies are headed by political leaders
2. Free medical care isn't being provided to the injured athletes
3. Equipment & Facilities aren't being provided to the athletes
4. There are not enough sports complexes in cities for athletes to
5. Sports are not being encouraged in schools and colleges
6. Parents pressurize their children to focus on studies rather than focusing on sports
7. There is no importance being given to other sports except cricket
8. People do not see sports as a lucrative career option
9. Most of the athletes quit athletics because of financial problems
10. Many coaches are not doing their job properly
11. There is lack of sports academies with hostel facilities
12. There is lack of honest sports administrators
13. There is favouritism in selection process for the state and national games
14. Academies don't have specialized coaches for different sport
15. There is lack of funds in sports education & training colleges

Root Causes Identified

1. Many leaders of the sports bodies do not have actual experience with the sport itself

2. A lot of money allotted for the athletes is lost to scams
3. Corruption, black money, scams have become part and parcel of Sports in India
4. Lack of proper monitoring of sports bodies by the Government
5. Lack of proper policy and lack of strict enforcement to encourage and nurture talent
6. Lack of proper encouragement for talented sports persons
7. There is corruption in recruitment and selection process
8. Lack on good sports medicine hospitals in the country
9. The upgradation of equipment and facilities is running far behind schedule
10. Sports academies lack the basic infrastructure
11. Sports are still not considered a career option in India
12. Parents think of sports as an extra-curricular activity
13. Cricket has become a glamorous game which involves huge money. Hence other sports do not get equal importance
14. The financial support given by the Government to the athletes is very poor
15. Lack of quality and experienced coaches
16. Coaches treat their job as any other Government job
17. Academies are run with the intention of pure profits
18. Schools convert the sports grounds into classrooms to admit more students
19. There is a lack of a sporting culture in India
20. Girls are discouraged from playing sports
21. The number of playgrounds and parks in the cities are continuously decreasing
22. No weightage is given to sports in prestigious exams like IIT, AIIMS, PMT, IMA etc.

Solutions Identified:

1. The political influence and participation from the sports bodies should be completely eliminated
2. The sports bodies should be headed by sportsmen who have played at national/international level
3. Investments should be made on improving people's interest in not-so-popular sports
4. National/international level athletes should be given free medical care
5. More sports injury rehabilitation centers should be opened in different parts of the country
6. Training facilities of international standards should be provided to our athletes
7. Investments should be made in taking the sports infrastructure to international levels
8. Parents should be counselled that their children can make a career in sports too
9. Good media coverage should be done around other sports except cricket to make them popular

10. National athletes should be given some monthly stipend to take care of their daily expenses
11. Coaches should be selected after a thorough test and they should be reviewed on a strict matrix bi-annually
12. Government should invest in opening quality sports academies with the vision of producing national/international level sports persons
13. All sports academies should have good hostel facilities for the students
14. Selection for teams should be completely based on performance
15. Government should tie up with private players to run sports education and training colleges
16. Sports bodies should be closely monitored by the Government
17. It should be made mandatory for the schools to have a playground
18. Special schemes should be announced by the Government for girls who want to pursue sports as a career option
19. All government schools should have good coaches for various sports like tennis, badminton hockey, kabbadi, football etc.
20. The gap between money allocations made by the Government and it actually reaching the sports persons should be reduced by implementing transparent processes and systems
21. Government should give scholarships to the achievers and support them with training, scholarship and medical assistance
22. The private sector should also follow the Government enterprises in offering jobs to sports persons
23. The Government could give tax exemption to private sector for investment in sports/games
24. The tenure of heading such bodies by a person, should be limited to maximum two years
25. A policy should be devised for grading of sports persons based on their annual performance during that year and a rank system is to be maintained at State, Central, International level against each sports discipline and they should be provided financial and training help basing on their rank

State of Sports in India – A few citizen posts and comments:

1. Sports need encouragement from parents, teachers, school, colleges and above all Government of the day. It should be developed and perceived as a secure career option. People with genuine interest and credentials should be selected for coaching as well as administration purpose, and accountability should be fixed. Extremely fair system of selection should be in place. More encouragement for private public partnership in development of sports facilities and academies should be facilitated on the part of Government – **Sameer Varma**
2. Sadly, cricket never gives even a flickering chance to other sports. We have been mesmerized by this worthless sport of gambling nature. Nobody wants to invest money in football, Hockey, track and fields and many other sports. This discussion is totally meaningless – **Jayant Vasani**
3. Have a professional management who are answerable and responsible for a win or lose and punishment or penalty for non-functioning. Open up the stadiums built in various cities. Remove bureaucracy and procedure. Include more Ex-sportsman in management etc. Give suitable pension kind of remuneration to aged but proven sportspersons etc. – **Bhushan Antani**
4. All politicians, without exception, should be immediately removed from the sport bodies. The tenure of heading such bodies by a person, should be limited to maximum two tenures – **AK Gupta**
5. One does not necessarily have to choose sports as a career just because one likes it; for most students a balance of physical activity (e.g. sports) and some studies should be encouraged. It is not either or choice, that should be made clear to students, teachers and parents. Then depending on talent, performance and interest some may choose sports as profession. I am not sure if that is clear in the solutions listed – **Ranbir Sinha**
6. Necessary Medical and Pension benefits will be provided to the sports persons, once they retire from active Sports tenure, if they are failed to get a decent employment anywhere either Public or private – **Raghnand Dutt**
7. Some of the sports institutions are not even registered. Annual General body meeting should be made compulsory. Submission of report to the authorities of the AGM and the activities and the achievement for the year should be made compulsory for each and every institution – **Milind Patankar**
8. It should be one neutral person with good academic quality has to be involved. It should be a condition that she/he should not be in relation with any politician and also not in relationship with any player also – **Jayanti Ghosh**