

## **Progress of Sports in Punjab after 1947**

After the partition of the country in 1947, some part of Punjab was given to India and some of it went to the share of Pakistan. The areas which came to the share of India were backward from the point of view of sports. In this way due to the partition of the country, Indian Punjab became refugee from the aspect of sports. Punjab University of these days is also the out come of this upheaval which first got itself established at Solan (Himachal Pradesh) after being uprooted from Lahore and then at Chandigarh. Due to this upheaval, the need of renewed efforts was felt for sports in Punjab. Keeping in view the need of Punjab, the refugee workers who had come from Pakistan put in their efforts right from the start to manufacture sports material at Jalandhar and Batala.

In 1948, because of the efforts of Sh. G.D. Sondhi, a meeting of sport lovers was organized at Simla. As a result of this meeting Punjab Olympic Association was established. Sh.G.D.Sondhi was appointed its founder president and Prof. F.C. Arora the Secretary.

Different sports associations came into being after getting inspiration from Punjab Olympic Association. Consequently Hockey and Volleyball Associations were established in 1948 and 1951. Thus gradually, associations of basket ball, hockey for girls, athletics, football, cycling, kabaddi, boxing etc. were established.

After the establishment of different state associations, special efforts were made to raise the standard of games in Punjab again. Consequently, district level and state level sports competitions were arranged.

Punjab hockey and volley ball associations invited teams from Pakistan and other countries for Inter-level competitions. That is not all, for raising the standard of sports still further, all India level tournaments were arranged. Among them, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Tournament Amritsar, Proder Cup Jalandhar, Major Bhupinder Singh tournament Ludhiana, Liberal Tournament Nabha and Shaheed Karnail Singh Memorial Tournament Patiala for volley ball were taken to be very popular tournaments. For the first time in Punjab after the partition of the country, Olympic Association arranged. Sports competitions on the state level in 1957.

Punjab government made special arrangements for Sports in the State universities. These universities were provided financial aid to establish play grounds, gymnasium halls and Swimming pools.

Among the organizations which contributed maximum in the field of sports are Punjab Police, B.S.F., Leader Engineering Works Jalandhar, Jagatjit Cotton and Textile Mills Phagwara, Punjab State Electricity Board, Punjab and Sind Bank and Pepsu Road Transport Corporation. These organisations reserved good posts for the high level players as a result of which, the good players did not have to go out of Punjab for seeking jobs. For raising the standard of games, these organisations appointed coaches for training their players. Consequently these teams of punjab won important tournaments like All India Durand Cup Delhi. Nehru Hockey competition Delhi, Bombay Gold Cup Bombay.

For raising the standard of sports and for the training of teachers, Govt. established Government College of Physical Education in 1948 at Tara Devi, Then it was shifted to Ropar from 1952-58 and lastly it got itself established permanently at Patiala in 1958. Similarly a college of Physical education

was opened in Shaheed Kanshi Ram College Bhago-Majra (Ropar). This college prepares different syllabuses for the teachers of physical education and provides them training.

Punjab government has made the subject of physical education an examination subject like other subjects. Consequently, university examination is conducted in this subject.

Now Government has made it a target to establish a Sports Academy for attaining higher achievements in the field of physical education. It will provide special training to those teams who are to participate in the National level competitions.

### **Punjab Education Department**

Punjab government has established special cell under the supervision of D.P.I. (Schools) and D.P.I. (Colleges) for the development of sports in schools and colleges which makes special efforts for games in schools and colleges. A Director sports helps the D.P.I. in the department.

Similarly at the circle level, there is an assistant circle education officer to assist the circle education officer. At the district level, there is an assistant education officer (physical Education) to assist the D.E.O. who supervises the sports programmes.

For the development of games in schools and colleges, Punjab Education Department established a state school of sports and a state college of sports at Jalandhar in 1961. Similarly different sports wings for different games were opened at different district levels. Best players are offered admission in these institutions who along with their studies get training of sports. The boys and girls who study in these institutions, the arrangement of their diet, lodging and fees is made by the education department. The responsibility of supervising sports

in the district lies with the D.E.O. who takes assistance of assistant education officer (Physical education) to organize competitions in his district.

Firstly there are zone level sports competitions in every district and then teams of different zones participate in the district level competitions. Education department has divided these competitions into two categories. Some are called summer season competitions and some are called winter season competitions. After the inter-district competitions, a state level team is selected which participates in the national level competitions.

For further raising the standard of sports, Punjab Education Department has made arrangement for sports competitions for the children of different age groups. Now competitions are arranged at primary, mini and junior level. The schools of winner teams are honoured by giving a handsome financial assistance.

Keeping in view the need of games and physical education, the subject of physical education like other subjects has been made a subject of examination in schools and colleges resulting in the increase of number of teachers of physical education than before in schools and colleges.

For getting information of the latest trends in physical education and sports, some in-service training centres have been opened by the education department. Seminars are arranged from time to time in these institutions for the information of teachers.

Every year, education department arranges a get together for the high level training of the budding players during summer vacation and camps are arranged for different games. Thus the students remain in practice though out the year.

Financial assistance is provided by the education department for special training in sports to schools and colleges. Sports material is purchased and play grounds are prepared with this help.

Education department reserves some seats in different colleges, medical and engineering colleges of the state for players so that good players could also get higher education.

Education department also arranges competitions every year for National Physical Efficiency drive. Thus, the department makes arrangement for sports keeping in view the need of every student.

### **Universities of Punjab State**

At the time of partition of India, there was only one University Panjab. It was shifted to Solan ( H.P.) from Lahore in 1947. After partition and then got itself established at Chandigarh. After 1947, Six universities came into existence in Punjab i.e. Punjab University, Chandigarh, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Technical University Jalandhar and Baba Farid University, Faridkot. Different colleges of Punjab State are affiliated to three universities but only agriculture colleges are affiliated to Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana.

All the Universities have one Director appointed for arranging the programmes of sports. This director arranges for competitions of sports in the colleges affiliated to a university. After these inter-college competitions, they give high level training to boys and girls of their respective universities and send them for inter university competitions.

Administrative departments are established for sports in each university which take care to make special arrangement for play grounds, sports material and sports competitions.

Different universities help the colleges affiliated to them in making appointments of teachers of physical education in them.

Except Agriculture University, Ludhiana, other universities of the state teach the subject of Physical education like other subjects and conduct examination in this subject like other subjects. In all the departments of the university, some seats are reserved for players so that the players could also become doctors, scientists and engineers.

For the development of sports, all the universities have got swimming pools, play grounds, stadium and gymnasium halls made. Punjab University, Chandigarh and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar have opened special departments for the training of teachers of physical education.

Thus, universities of Punjab State are producing players of high calibre in different fields on the whole.

### **Punjab Sports Department**

After the partition of India, the government opened a department in 1961 keeping in view the progress and development of sports in the Indian Punjab which came to be known as Punjab Sports Department. This department makes special arrangements for sports in all the districts of Punjab.

The department has opened District Sports Department in every district of the state. District sports officer has been assigned its administrative responsibility. Every district has been divided into tehsil and every tehsil into sub centres. For the development of different games and high level training in these centres, arrangement of coaches is made. Department has improved its centres and play grounds and has given facilities free of cost to the players.

Keeping in view the problem of travelling from distant places, sports hostels have been opened at different places for

players. The department makes arrangement for sports material, fees , boarding and lodging for the boys and girls studying in any school or college.

Encouragement of good players and exhibition of good playing is not only done for players of schools and colleges, instead players other than these are also given annual scholarships so that the players could get good and balanced diet.

The department arranges sports competitions in all games at the state level which are known as "Women Sports Festival" and "Men Sports festival (colleges). The department awards appreciation certificates and scholarships to the players who get some positions at the international level. For raising the playing standard of hockey, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Hockey Tournament is arranged every year by the department. The department has also established sports academies at different places.

The department also makes gradation of the sports achievement of players.

### **State Sports Council**

Punjab government constituted a council in 1971 for the development of sports to provide sports material and play grounds which is known as Punjab State Sports Council. This council has the responsibility of inculcating the spirit of sports in men and women of the Punjab State and for the fulfillment of this spirit, it is to provide good sports material, gymnasium, stadium and swimming pool in the state. For the above mentioned projects, financial assistance is not only given by Punjab government but the Indian Government also sends financial help every year.

Punjab State Sports Council have established district sports councils in every district which works under the Deputy Commissioner of the district for running the day to day works, district sports officer works as a secretary. The council makes special arrangements for the development of sports in every district as a result of which there is no scarcity of playgrounds and sports material in every district. Chief Minister of the State is the President of the council and Director sports of the state works as a secretary.

Once in a year, the council honours the outstanding men and women players with "Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award" who have participated in different teams of India in the international level. Old and aged punjabi players who have represented India in Asian games, Olympic games and world cup games are given annual pension by way of help every year.

Different teams of Punjab which go to participate in the national competitions are given the whole expenditure by the council. The council gives the financial help to all the punjabi players who go to participate in the international competitions.

### **Panchayati Raj Sports Parishad.**

In Punjab efforts were not only made for the advancement of sports in schools, colleges and urban areas but special efforts were made for rural areas as well. In this connection, the government established Panchayati Raj Sports Prishad in 1967 as a result of which efforts were made to raise the standard of sports in rural areas. The Prishad tried its best to inculcate the spirit of sports, interest for sports competition and patriotism among the youth.

The Prishad made Panchayat Samities in every district and it was their responsibility to arrange sports competitions in the rural areas of their districts. Every Panchayat Samiti of

the district gives some amount of money for these competitions to district samiti. In this way after the district level competitions, State level competitions are arranged. The games for competitions for boys are football, hockey, kabaddi, volleyball, tug of war, athletics, weight lifting, wrestling and gymnastics and for girls—kabaddi, volleyball, kho-kho, hockey and athletics etc.

The sports prishad has appointed coaches for different games to give high level training of games and for the progress and development of sports. Now a days this institution is attached with Punjab Sports Department.

### **Punjab Olympic Association**

Before the partition of the country in 1942, Punjab Olympic Association came into existence by the initiative of Sh. G.D.Sondhi but the partition of the country in 1947 dismantled it. Again because of the efforts of Sh. G.D.Sondhi in 1948 a meeting was arranged of Sport lovers at Shimla as a result of which the Punjab Olympic Association was reconstituted. All the sports associations of Punjab State became its members and besides District Olympic Associations of the State were also made members of this organization.

The main function of Punjab Olympic Association is to supervise the functioning of different Sports Associations and their financial expenditures.

Punjab Olympic Association celebrates one Olympic day every year. The association provides information about the Olympic movement. It is also the responsibility of the association to organize sports competitions in this connection. Punjab Olympic Association organizes district and state level tournaments.

Punjab Olympic Association gives suggestions to different

state associations from time to time about the development of sports and also has the responsibility to solve the disputes of these state associations.

The association also has the responsibility to see that Olympic rules are obeyed and also to check the participation of professional players in the sports competitions. It is also its duty to arrange sports competitions on the state level once a year.

### **Punjab School Education Board**

The government of Punjab established Punjab School Education Board to lesser the burden of conducting examinations from the Punjab University and also for conducting the school examination more efficiently and timely declaration of the results. This board prepares curriculum and text books for different classes in schools so that information could be got from time to time concerning the latest trends.

Punjab School Education Board has made the subject of Physical education as a subject of examination like other subjects and now examination is also conducted in this subject.

Punjab School Education Board has made a special arrangement of sports competitions for the board employees. Teams of employees are prepared for sepsa tournament and inter education board tournament. Punjab School Education Board organized second All India Inter Education Board Tournament on November 29 and 30, 2000. In this tournament, 250 players of different State Boards participated.

### **EXERCISE**

1. Write about the progress of sports in Punjab after 1947.
2. What is the contribution of Punjab Education Department in the development of sports?

3. Punjab Sports Department deserves a special place in the development of sports in Punjab. Do you agree with it? Write about the contribution of Punjab Sports Department?
  4. Write note on the contribution towards development of sports of the following:
    - (a) Universities of Punjab State
    - (b) Punjab State Sports Council
    - (c) Panchayati Raj Sports Prishad
    - (d) Punjab School Education Board
  5. What steps are taken by Punjab Olympic Association about the development of sports?
  6. How many times Punjab Olympic Association celebrates Olympic day in a year ?
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