

Though India has many schemes for development of sports, it still lags in availability of sports infrastructure. Justify (1)

Sports is considered as an item to shine in the world domain. Realising its importance, India had put up a separate ministry in the year 1982. Since then, India has seen abrupt increase in conversion of leisure activity to professional game.

Developing sports in India:-

- 1) India has a dedicated National Sports Policy in 1984 focussing on games, budget allocation to develop culture of sports
- 2) 2001 and 2007 policy talked about professionalism, Olympics.
- 3) National Sports development fund was created to support activities.
- 4) Khelo India Programme $\Rightarrow$ financial aid for 5 years for students from 20 universities.
- 5) Organizing Khelo India games - Rural to select and train talents.
- 6) Incentives, recognition through ARJUNA award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, Dronacharya award, Dhyan chand award.
- 7) Setting up of National Sports institute in Patiala, Haryana

Yet, only a handful of sportsperson, see the limelight of the Day. In a way, sports has enriched the rich-poor divide depending on accessibility and cost of training.

Infrastructure - Impediment to nurture talents bottlenecks

- 1) Sports is a State subject. The very cost of setting up training facilities acts as burden on state exchequer, who grapple with few taxation powers
- 2) Budget allocation by central government is meagre. Estimates show that India spends 3 paise per day, per player
- 3) Congestion, land availability to set stadiums for training is under crunch by urbanisation

- 4) Lack of dedicated board for sports selection, trained staffs induces corruption. (2)
- 5) There is no framework for selection of candidates in various games.
- 6) Unemployment, poverty, undernutrition hindered the sports culture in schools, which train students to seek a job for themselves.
- 7) The motive to continue sports drop as soon as the 'Quota factor' for employment is satisfied.
- 8) Doping ^{check} facilities are in dismal state, with the International Doping Agency WADA, withdrawing its license in Calcutta doping labs recently.

Despite the odds, different sections of society are breaking the glass ceiling. Example:- Manjappan, a paralympic gold medalist, Prasadhu, Manjorn olympic medalists, world championship. To convert these inspirations into normal reality.

- 1) Private-public partnerships for development of sports complex. eg. modelled in the lines of SRI ^{PORT} complex in New Delhi.
- 2) Sports must included curriculum in schools
- 3) Awareness creation to break patriarchal mindset.
- 4) Encourage Olympic winners to train their juniors. eg. Abhinav Bindra shooting society.
- 5) Opening of parks, grounds in urban wastelands.

Such measures can ^{even} directly induce fitness culture in India, enabling healthy life apart from unearthing talents.