

## 10. Various Sports Competitions

### Objectives

- (1) To update information about various national and international sports events.
- (2) To understand the history of various sports events.
- (3) To know the different aspects of each sports events.
- (4) To comprehend the planning and organizing aspects of sports at various levels.

### Few International Sports Competitions

1. Olympic Games
2. Asian Games
3. Commonwealth Games
4. SAF Games

### Few National Sports Competitions

1. National sports events
2. Khelo India
3. National school sports



### 1. Olympic Games

The first ancient Olympics was held in Athens, Greece in the year 1896. It is the effort of Frenchman Baron Pierre Coubertin who organized a physical education conference. A central committee of 200 sports teams was set up in France under his chairmanship. He proposed to

revive the ancient Greece Olympic Games and in 1894 sent circulars to different nations inviting them for a learning conference in Paris which resulted in the modern Olympics. He is therefore, known as the Father of modern Olympics.

The authority responsible for organising the modern Olympic Games is the International Olympic committee (IOC). This committee consists of 1 to 3 representatives from every nation. Their headquarters is at Lausanne, Switzerland. The modern Olympics have continued to adhere to the traditions, objectives and elements of the ancient Olympics.

In Latin The motto of Olympic Games is *Citius, Altius, Fortius*. In English it means Faster, Higher, Stronger. There are five circles in Blue, Black, Yellow, Green and Red colour intermingled with each other on the Olympic Flag. These five circles resemble five continents and their unity.

During the opening ceremony, the Olympic Song is played. Then all the players march on the tunes of the band and salute to the chief guest. Afterwards thousands of doves are set free on the sounds of the *bigul*. At the same time the Olympic torch enters the stadium and the Olympic torch is lit. As the Olympic song is being played, the Olympic flag is hoisted. An elite player from the host country takes the oath on behalf of all the players. At this time players of different countries mix with each other and display the relationship of world brotherhood to the audience.

## 2. Asian Games

The end of World War II saw a revolution amongst nations in the Asian continent. The Olympic values of friendship and not war, started penetrating worldwide. India was also not behind in this new change in the field of sports. Specially, India was ahead in the sports field in the Asian Continent. During this time Gurudatta Sondhi and



**1982 Delhi Asian Championship**

many other strived hard to start sports festival of Asian Countries on the Olympic platform. The western Asian Games got a break due to the world war but there was no break in the efforts of Gurudatta Sondhi.

With time, along with India many countries became independent. The idea of restoring the Far Eastern Games was raised at the 1948 Summer Olympics. However, Guru Dutt Sondhi, a member of the International Olympic Committee from India, proposed the idea of a whole new competition - Asian Games, as a sporting event where all Asian nations can be represented. It was a successor of the Far Eastern Games and the revival of the Western Asiatic Games.

The proposal of Guru Dutt Sondhi led to the forming of the Asian Games Federation in 1949 that owned the Asian Games. The

federation held the first Asian Games from 4 to 11 March, 1951 in Delhi. The games witnessed the participation of 489 athletes from 11 countries and 8 sports disciplines. The Asian games are conducted every 4 years. There is a 2-year gap between the Olympic Games and the Asian Games.

## 3. Commonwealth Games

After the Olympic Games, the



**2010 Delhi Nationwide Tournament**

Commonwealth Games is another major multisport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. These nations are the political association of member states that were former territories of the British Empire. These games were known as the British Empire Games from 1930 to 1950, the British Empire and Commonwealth Games and British Commonwealth Games in the later periods.

To celebrate the coronation of King George V, the Festival of the Empire was held in London in 1911 which included the inter-empire sports championship.

India received the honour of hosting the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

## 4. SAF Games

The South Asian Games formerly known as the South Asian Federation Games are a biennial multi-sport event held among the athletes from South Asia. The desire to promote a friendly and amicable relationship amongst the seven SAARC nations, led to the establishment of the South Asian Federation Games in 1981 in Delhi. The South Asia Olympic Council (SAOC)

formed in 1983 is the governing body for these games.

The first South Asian Games were hosted by Kathmandu, Nepal in 1984. This multi sport event has been organized every year from 1984 to 1987 except in 1986 as it was a year of Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. From 1987 onwards it was held every 2 years. The participating nations for the South Asian Games include India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

## 1. National Games

The first National Games on the lines of the Olympics were held in 1985 in New Delhi in the memory of Indira Gandhiji. The duration and the regulations of the National Games are within the jurisdiction of the Indian Olympic Association. All states and Union territories were allowed to participate in these games. The main objective is to inculcate unity and the spirit of sportsmanship through participation in these games.

## 2. Khelo India

The importance of sports and fitness in one's life is invaluable. Playing sports inculcates team spirit, develops strategic and analytical thinking, leadership skills, goal setting and risk taking. A fit and healthy individual leads to an equally healthy society and strong nation.

The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level and achieve sporting excellence. The revamped Khelo India Scheme was launched during the financial year 2017-18 with the twin objective of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports. The aim was to build a strong framework

for all the Indian sports, as well as establishing India as a great sporting nation.

Khelo India is the platform to inspire young talent to showcase their tremendous potential, scout for talent and groom them by providing state of the art infrastructure and training of the highest levels. This initiative took flight in 2018 due to efforts of then Sports Minister Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Olympian with bronze medal in Shooting.

- Khelo India Youth games is held annually.
- It is a national level multidisciplinary grassroot games in India.
- It is held for two categories, namely under – 17 years school students and under – 21 years college students.
- 16 sports were included for the Khelo India youth games competition
- Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines would be provided financial assistance of INR 5 lakhs per annum for 8 years.
- Promotion of 20 universities across India as hubs for sporting excellence.
- Focus on nurturing talent and connecting rural India to global games.
- Efforts to encourage an increased penetration of sports in the education curriculum, with a tool kit to measure physical fitness levels.

### Activities :

Find out about the real school sports.

## Exercise

### Q.1 Answer in one sentence.

- (1) In which year was the first modern Olympics conducted?
- (2) Who is known as the father of modern Olympics?
- (3) In which year was the Indian Olympic Association established?
- (4) What is the motto of the Olympic Games?
- (5) Who is the founder of the Asian games competitions?
- (6) What is the total number of nations that participate in the Commonwealth Games?
- (7) In which year was the first South Asian Games organized?

- (8) In which year was the first national games conducted?

### Q.2 Answer in one sentence.

- a) The first modern Olympics was held in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) The headquarters of the International Olympic Committee is in \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) The first Asian games was conducted in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) The Commonwealth Games were conducted in India in the year \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) The 2018 inaugural Khelo India Youth Games was conducted in \_\_\_\_\_.

### Supplementary Study :

- (1) List the different games and disciplines that are included in the modern Olympics games.
- (2) Write the player's information in the picture below.

