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Performance of India in Common Wealth Games during 2002-2018

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Abstract

The paper seeks to assess the performance of India in Common Wealth Games during 2002-2018. It tries to compare the performance of Indian athletes across time and to explore the basic issues that are contributing to its performance levels. While data have been obtained from the websites of different CWG games, results have been processed using statistical techniques of comparison and associations and representation of the results through diagram. Rankings based on medals such as Gold, Silver and Bronze have been done. In addition to it, deviations between the consecutive two medals such as Gold- Silver and Silver- Bronze have also been worked out to explain the existing gap. The average for past five CWG total medal scores is worked out to be 70. However, excluding 2010 for exceptional score, the average comes to be 62.65. Thus, overall performance of India in CWG has been improving but deserves special policy backup for achieving still higher scores in times to come. In terms of overall ranking for India; shooting, wrestling and weight lifting have improved their medal tally and has an edge over competing countries. Women's participation in CWG has increased significantly and the results are also encouraging. Women have contributed half the gold and silver medals and were at par with their men counterparts in sports performance at Common Wealth Games.

Keywords: Common Wealth Games, Medals, Women Achievers, India

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Introduction

Common Wealth Games (CWG) was, organized recently during 4-15 April 2018 at Gold Coast in 'Queensland, Australia. A total of 53 countries participated in this event. The Indian contingent consisted of a total of 325 members. Of these 221 were athletes, 58 coaches, 17 doctors and physiotherapists, 7 managers and 22 other officials. Among athletes 117 were males and 104 were females. However, in terms of participation only 218 sports persons could take part in the events. In terms of participating nations, India secured 66 medals and stood third in the medal tally after Australia and England. Of the total score, there were 26 gold medals accounting for about 39.39 percentages, 20 silver and 20 bronze accounting for 30.30 percentages each respectively. Looking at temporal trends, performance of Indian sports persons has been rising. The table-1 shows that India secured 69 medals in 2002 at Manchester, England. The performance of Indian sports persons fell down to the level of 50 medals in CWG 2006 at Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. However, in CWG Delhi 2010, India scored 101 medals. Thus, from Melbourne to Delhi, Indian performance grew by more than 100 percent. However, by the next event (2014), medal tally slipped down to the level of 64

medals to India's credit. The decline was of the level of 36.63 percent as compared to its previous record of 2010. By 2018 India has improved its position to level of 66 medals which is higher by two from Glasgow CWG in 2014.

Methodology of research:

The information received from CWGs website has been further processed to develop indicators and variables for the analysis and comparison. Similarly, for assessing growth trends over different periods of time have been compared and explained. Deviations in medal scores have been worked out to analyze the level of increase or decrease in substantive years of CWGs. Finally, achievements of Indian women sports persons have been analyzed and explained to establish what has been lagging and what could be planned for the future plan for plugging the gaps through talent search in sports, fields of training, monitoring and management.

India's ranking in Common Wealth Games during 2002 - 2018:

Ranking is an important indicator of the place of a country in terms of overall sports performance. The weight age attached to the ranking of a nation is determined first by its scores in gold, then silver and last by bronze medals. However, over all medals

won by a nation indicate its concern for sports events. Performance of India in Common Wealth Games can be gauged from its overall rank in the medal tally. During 2002 Manchester, India scored 69 medals and ranked fourth after Australia, England and Canada. The scores of medals by category were 30 gold, 22 silver and 17 bronze. The performance of India in Melbourne CWG 2006 declined both by absolute number and also by categories of medals. India stood at 4th rank after Australia, England and Canada. Total medals scored were 50 and by category 22 Gold, 17 Silver and 11 bronze. However, India's performance in Delhi CWG 2010 improved significantly both by absolute scores and by category scores. The total medals secured were 101 and by category 38 gold, 27 silver and 36 bronze. India ranked second only after Australia. During 2014 CWG held at Glasgow in Scotland, India's performance slipped down to 5th rank after Scotland, Canada, Australia, and England. The total medals to India's credit were 64 and by category 15 gold, 30 silver and 19 bronze. In 2018 CWG held at Gold

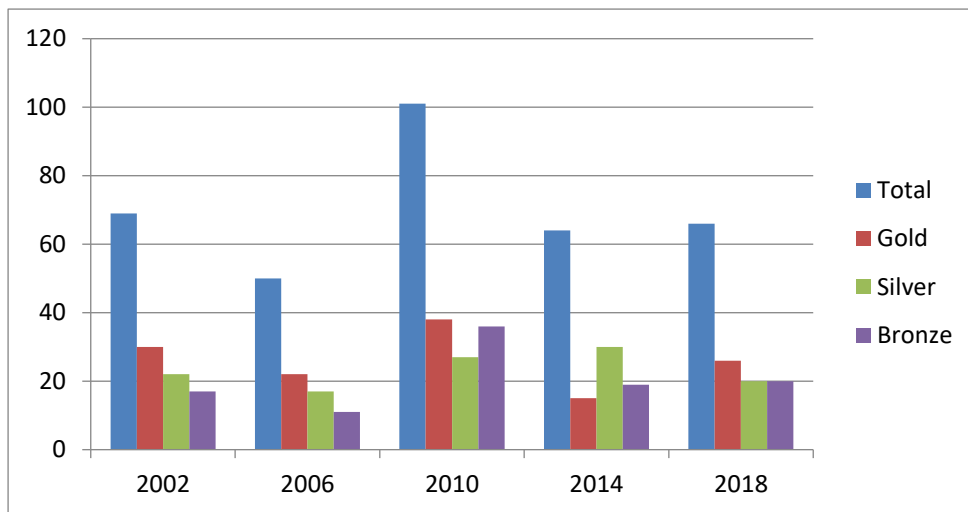
Coast, Australia, India's position has improved. India ranked third in overall medal tally and was behind Australia and England. India scored 26 gold, 20 silver and 20 bronze medals. Australia, the first ranking country in CWG 2018, scored a total of 198 medals. India lags behind Australia by 132 medals which amount to a gap of 200 percent. By default, it means that India has to work by two times more to its present score to match with the score of Australia. Similarly, the second ranking country in CWG 2018 tally is England with a total medal score of 136. India is behind England by 70 medals which amount to a gap of 106.06 percent. A comparative profile of all the five games held during 2002-2018 is presented through a diagram below. Results reveal that India's overall performance is increasing with the passage of time. However, India had its best performance in 2010 CWG Delhi. India has to develop a specific plan for improving its score as well as its rating in different categories of sports to be at par or to achieve still higher medal score in Common Wealth Games to be organized in future.

Table 1: Performance of India in Common Wealth Games during 2002- 2018

| Year of CWG & place (1) | Rank of India (2) | Total medals (3) | Gold (4) | Silver (5) | Bronze (6) | Deviation Gold-Silver (7) | Deviation Silver-Bronze (8) |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2002 Manchester | 4 th after Australia, England and Canada | 69 | 30 | 22 | 17 | 8 | 5 |
| 2006 Melbourne | 4 th after Australia, England and Canada | 50 | 22 | 17 | 11 | 5 | 6 |
| 2010 Delhi | 2 nd after Australia | 101 | 38 | 27 | 36 | 11 | -9 |
| 2014 Glasgow | 5 th after Scotland, Canada, Australia and England | 64 | 15 | 30 | 19 | -15 | 11 |
| 2018 Gold Coast | 3 rd after Australia and England | 66 | 26 | 20 | 20 | 6 | 0 |

Source: Compiled by the author from official websites of different CWGs held at Manchester 2002, Melbourne 2006, Delhi 2010, Glasgow 2014 and Gold Coast 2018

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Deviation in medal scores: The deviation in medals' score is an exercise to work out the imbalances in various categories of medals won by a nation. It has been worked out based on the assumption: (1) if deviation between the two immediate medal categories is small say within a range of one digit, it is considered to be a balanced performance. However, if deviation worked out is large, sports performance needs to be improved to seek a balance in overall performance, (2) if score of higher medal category is greater than or equal to those of immediate lower category, the deviation is said to be positive and it represents an encouraging performance. However, if results are opposite, that means, if higher category

Contributions of India's women sports persons in CWG 2018: Gold medalist

Women sports persons accounted for 47.06 percent of the total athletes who participated in CWG 2018 at Gold Coast Australia. It is evident from table-2 that of a total of 26 gold medals scored by India in 2018 CWG, 23 were won by single performers while remaining 3 gold medals were won by team players viz. mixed team badminton, table tennis team women and table tennis team men. Women performers won 11 gold medals in single events and

scores are less than those of immediate lower category, the deviation is said to be negative and indicates the requirement of planning for further improvement.

A look at the results of deviations from table -1 (column 7 & 8) reveals that the difference between scores of India's gold medal and silver medal remained positive in all the CWG since 2002, except for 2014 CWG Glasgow when scores of gold medals to silver recorded a minus value of 15 that means gold scores (15) were half of the number of the silver (30) scores. Similarly, the deviations from silver to bronze were positive or equal with an exception of 2010 CWG Delhi in which silver medal (27) scores were less as compared to the bronze medals (36)

one each in mixed team and women's team. Thus, women sports persons performed at par with their men counterparts in scoring gold medals in 2018 CWG. In terms of scores of gold medals for various events, women won 4 gold medals in shooting, 3 gold medals in weightlifting and one each in boxing wrestling badminton and table tennis. It is to be further added that women sports persons added two gold medals in two team events (mixed team badminton and women's team in table tennis).

Table 2: Performance of Indian women sports persons in CWG 2018- Gold Medalists

| No. | Player | Winning Event |
|-----|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Saina Nehwal | Women's Singles Badminton |
| 2 | Manika Batra | Women's Singles Table Tennis |
| 3 | Vinesh Phogat | Wrestling Freestyle 50 Kg weight Nordic Event |
| 4 | M.C.Mary Kom | Boxing 45-50 Kg weight |
| 5 | Tejashwini Sawant | 50-meter Rifle shooting |
| 6 | Shreyashi Singh | Women's Double Trap Shooting |
| 7 | Heena Sidhu | Women's 25-meter Pistol shooting event |
| 8 | Manu Bhaker | 10 meter women's shooting air pistol |
| 9 | Poonam Yadav | Weight Lifting women's 69 Kg Category |
| 10 | Sanjita Chanu | Weight Lifting Women's 53 Kg Category |
| 11 | Mirabai Chanu | Weight Lifting Women's 48 Kg Category |
| 12 | | Table Tennis Women's team |
| 13 | | Badminton mixed team |

Source: Developed by Author data from CWG 2018 website.

Table -3 presents a list of women sports persons winning silver medals in Commonwealth Games 2018 held at Gold Coast Australia. Results reveal that women sports persons made a contribution of 10 silver medals. Of these, 8 medals were won by individual performers and 2 medals were

won by team performers. Among 8 silver medals won by women in single events, shooting alone accounted for 4 medals (50 % of the single events), wrestling for two medals and badminton and discuss throw for one each.

Table 3: Performance of Indian women sports persons in CWG 2018- Silver Medalists.

| No | Player | Sports event |
|----|---|---|
| 1 | P.V. Sindhu | Women's Singles Badminton |
| 2 | Dipika Pallikal Karthik & Joshna Chinappa | Women's double's Badminton |
| 3 | Manika Batra & Mouma Das | Women's double's Table Tennis |
| 4 | Anjum Mudgil | Women's 50-meter Rifle 3 position event |
| 5 | Pooja Dhanda | Women's Wrestling 57 Kg |
| 6 | Seema Punia | Women's Discus throw |
| 7 | Mehuli Ghosh | 10-meter Women's Air Rifle event |
| 8 | Heena Sidhu | 10 Meter Women's Air Pistol |
| 9 | Tejashwini Sawant | 50-meter Prone final shooting |
| 10 | Babita Kumari | 53 Kg Wrestling event |

Source: Developed by Author based on the data from CWG Gold Coast 2018

The contribution of Indian women athletes in securing bronze medals in Common Wealth Games 2018 held at Gold Coast Australia is presented in table-4. Results reveal that women sports persons made a contribution of 7 bronze medals. Of the total medals in this category 5 medal were won by individual performers while 2 medals were won by team players. It is

evident from the table that 3 out of a total of 5 individual medals in this category were won by wrestlers in different weight categories and one each by shooting and discuss throw. Two bronze medals were added to the tally by team players one mixed team table tennis and the other women's double team badminton.

Table 4: Performance of Indian women sports persons in CWG 2018-Bronze Medalists.

| No. | Player | Sports event in which bronze medals were won |
|-----|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Manika Batra & G. Sathiyan | Table Tennis Doubles (Men & Women) |
| 2 | Aswini Ponappa & Sikki Reddy | Women's Double Badminton |
| 3 | Shakshi Malik | Women Wrestling 62 Kg. Weight Category |
| 4 | Divya Kakran | Women's Freestyle Wrestling 68 Kg. Weight Category |
| 5 | Navjeet Dhillon | Discus Throw |
| 6 | Kiran | Women's Freestyle Wrestling 76 Kg Weight Category |
| 7 | Apurvi Chandela | Women's shooting Air Rifle 10 meter |

Source: Developed by author based on the data from CWG Gold Coast 201

Conclusion:

The foregoing analysis leads to conclude the following:

India's performance in Common Wealth Games during 2002 – 2018 has registered an overall improvement with its best performance in 2010. The average for past five CWG total medal scores is worked out to be 70. However, excluding 2010 for exceptional score, the average comes to be 62.65. Thus, overall performance of India in CWG is improving but deserves special policy back up for achieving still higher scores in times to come. In terms of overall

ranking for India; shooting, wrestling and weight lifting have improved their medal tally and has edge over competing countries. Women's participation in CWG has increased significantly and the results are also encouraging. Women have contributed half the gold and silver medals and were at par with their men counterparts. It is only in bronze medal tally that women lag behind men counterparts by 3 medals. Further, it is to be recorded those women outnumber men in medal scores of shooting and weight lifting.

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