

Impact Factor-8.575 (SJIF)

ISSN-2278-9308

# *B.Aadhar*

Peer-Reviewed & Refreed Indexed

**Multidisciplinary International Research Journal**

**December-2022**

ISSUE No - (CCCLXXX.) 380-B

**75 Years of Indian Economy: Opportunities and Challenges**



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**INDEX -B**

No.	Title of the Paper	Authors' Name	Page No.
1	भारतातील दारिद्र्य समस्या व उपाय	प्रा.डॉ. सुभाष राठोड	1
2	भारतातील दारिद्र्य - कारणे आणि उपाय	प्रा.डॉ.राजेश्री अप्पाराव जाधव	7
3	भारतातील ग्रामीण विकास योजना	प्रा.डॉ. नागसेन नामदेव मेत्राम	11
4	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेत कृषीची भूमिका :	डॉ.मीनाताई देविदासराव बोरुळे	16
5	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेत कृषीचे स्थान	प्रा. डॉ. माधव मंढेवाड	19
6	भारतातील दारिद्र्याची समस्या आणि दारिद्र्याच्या मापन पध्दती	डॉ. संजय मुडकर	23
7	भारतीय स्वातंत्र्याचा अमृत महोत्सव आणि कृषी विकासातील बदल: एक अभ्यास	प्रा.डॉ.जितेंद्र पांडुरंगराव काळे	29
8	महाराष्ट्रातील प्रादेशिक असमतोल : कारणे व उपाययोजना	प्रा.व्यंकट संदीपान विरादार	32
9	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेत शेतीची भूमिका : एक अवलोकन	डॉ. गाडेकर वी. पी	35
10	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेत कृषीची भूमिका	प्रा.जाधव रूपाली , डॉ.गाडेकर वी.पी.	39
11	भारतातील पायाभूत सुविधांचा विकास	प्रा.डॉ.प्रवीणकुमार धोंडीबा सेलूकर	45
12	आर्थिक विकासात सरकारची भूमिका	डॉ.बालाजी शिवाजी राजोळे	48
13	जागतिक अर्थव्यवस्थेचा सहकारी चळवळीवरील परिणाम	प्रा.मोटे भैरवनाथ बन्नुवान	52
14	भारतातील दारिद्र्याचे आर्थिक व भौगोलिक विवेचन: एक अभ्यास	प्रा.डॉ.एस.जी. विराजदार	55
15	पर्यावरण आणि कृषी यांच्यातील संबंध: एक पुनरावलोकन	Dr.Satish Baburao Donge	59
16	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेतील औद्योगिक विकास - 1991 चे औद्योगिक धोरण	पानकुरे अक्षय दिलीप	63
17	जलव्यवस्थापन	डॉ. मोहन व्यंकटराव बंडे	66
18	महिला सक्षमीकरण.	डॉ.विशाल भाऊसाहेब पावसे	70
19	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेवर जागतिकीकरणाचा परिणाम	प्रा.डॉ.मोरे अर्जुन मोहनराव	74





20	सॅद्रिय खताचा वापर शेतकऱ्यांसाठी फलदायी	प्रा.डॉ.बी.आर.शिंदे	78
21	स्वातंत्र्यानंतर भारतातील ग्रामीण स्थलांतराची कारणे, परिणाम व त्यावरील उपाय	डॉ.एम.डी.कच्छवे	81
22	भरडधान्ये उत्पादन आणि आहारातील महत्व	प्रा. डॉ. पाते शिवाजी बाबुराव	85
23	भारतातील दारिद्र्याची समस्या व उपाय	डॉ. अशोक टिपरसे नागेश रामदास पतंगे	90
24	महाराष्ट्राच्या आर्थिक विकासातील प्रादेशिक असमतोल	डॉ.मुनिता लिवराज गुजर	96
25	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेवर जागतिकीकरणाचे परिणाम	डॉ. बालाजी तुळशिराम घुटे	99
26	भारताच्या दारिद्र्य निर्मूलन कार्यक्रमावर दृष्टिक्षेप	प्रा बालासाहेब शिवाजी पवार	103
27	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेत कृषीची भूमिका	प्रा.डॉ. मौलाना महेताब सय्यद	106
28	जागतिकीकरण आणि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था	रविकुमार चंद्रकांत माने	110
29	भारतातील लोकसंख्या, दारिद्र्य आणि बेरोजगारीचा प्रश्न	प्रा.डॉ. खोकले आर. के.	114
30	डिजिटल चलन आणि आभासी चलन एक विहंगावलोकन	प्रा डॉ. डी. वी. कोनाळे	120
31	वर्तमान काळातील शेती क्षेत्राचे आंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापारिक योगदान	प्रभाकर वसंत पगार, डॉ. अजय वासुदेव काटे	125
32	अकरावी पंचवार्षिक योजना - एक दृष्टिक्षेप	प्रा.डॉ.पलमंटे माधव पांडूरंगराव	130
33	भारतातील पंचवार्षिक योजनांचा आढावा	प्रा.डॉ.संजय काळे	136
34	भारतातील दारिद्र्य - एक जटील समस्या	प्रा.शशिकांत दिवाण भामरे	140
35	शेती आणि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था	प्रा डॉ. डी. पी. कांबळे	146
36	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेत कृषीची भूमिका	प्रा. कांबळे शिल्पा बळीराम	148
37	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेत कृषीची भूमिका	प्रा. डॉ. पवार एस.व्ही.	150
38	भारतातील बँकांच्या राष्ट्रीयीकरणाची 50 वर्षे: सद्यस्थिती व भवितव्य	डॉ. प्रा.सौ. मंडले एस.यु	155
39	भारतीय स्वातंत्र्याचे 75 वर्ष व भारतातील मूलभूत सुविधांचा विकास	प्रा.अमोल अरुण पगार, डॉ.विकास विनायकराव सुकाळे	162
40	भारतातील दारिद्र्याचा प्रश्न आणि अनुसूचित जाती-जमाती एक विश्लेषण	प्रा.डॉ.एल.एच. पाटील	166
41	आत्मनिर्भर भारत : चुनौतियाँ और समाधान	प्रा.डॉ.रामकिशन मांजरे	172



42	लातूर जिल्ह्यातील गोदाम (वखार) क्षेत्राची वार्षिक उत्पन्नस्थिती डॉ. अरुण बळीराम धानवडे	178
43	A Study of Sports Infrastructural Development Facilities in 75 <sup>th</sup> Year of Indian Independence Dr.Gopal Laxmikant Moghe	181
44	भारतातील लोकसंख्या आणि बेरोजगारी एक समस्या प्रा. डॉ. शेवाळे आनंद तुकाराम	186
45	भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्थेवर जागतिकीकरणाचा झालेला परिणाम- एक अभ्यास प्रा.डॉ. देविदास विक्रम हारगिजे	189



## A Study of Sports Infrastructural Development Facilities in 75<sup>th</sup> Year of Indian Independence

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### 1. Introduction

Sports infrastructure plays a crucial role in achieving excellence in the global arena of sports. It not only helps in producing sports persons of international repute, but also encourages the young population of a country to participate in sporting activities with the objective of creating a culturing of sports. In India, the standard of sports infrastructure is not at a satisfactory level for a number of reasons. The lack of infrastructural facilities is one of the major constraints in the process of development of sports in India. The objective of this article is to analyse the present state of sports infrastructure of the country and propose a possible road map for its development.

### 2. Methodology:

A survey type study has been designed to collect the required information and materials through different sources.

- 1.Primary sources
- 2.Secondary source

In recent years, a phenomenal growth has been observed in Indian sports with the staging of mega sports events, such as the U-17 FIFA Football World Cup, Commonwealth Games 2010, Hockey World Cup and Cricket World Cup. In the 2016 Rio Summer Olympic Games, India won a Silver medal in badminton and a Bronze medal in wrestling. P.V. Sindhu, the badminton icon of the country, became the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal. India won a total of six medals in the 2012 London Olympics, including two Silver and four Bronze medals. The success of Sushil Kumar, AbhinavBindra, Mary Kom, P.V. Sindhu, SainaNehwal, Sakshi Malik and Sania Mirza has already established the country on the global sports map.

The continued success of JeevMilkha Singh, Arjun Atwal and Jyoti Randhawa has created a prominent position for India in the discipline of golf. In cricket, India has already emerged as a superpower due to its excellence in sporting and commercial performances. Despite all these successes; it is pertinent to mention that the status of sports infrastructure in India is yet to reach the desired level. This creates an obstacle in developing a culture of sports in the country. 1982 was a significant year in the history of sports in India when the country organized the Asian Games for the second time. Prior to that, hardly any emphasis was given to sports in the public policies of the country.

Sports are globally identified as a catalyst for economic development and a separate sector to be administered in various economies. The sector includes sporting events and infrastructure associated with sports, along with training facilities and sports retail. Manufacturing of sports goods also forms a major part of the sector. As it is closely linked with various other sectors like tourism, real estate and health education, the sports sector as a whole impact the global economy significantly. Sports infrastructure has been defined as "the primary physical and organizational construction needed to facilitate sport participation. From a functional point of view, sports infrastructure enables community members to participate in sports". It comprises facilities, systems, goods, and services that enable sports and is vital for any country to compete in the international sporting arena. Sports infrastructure assists in the development of world-class athletes and also provides impetus to the youth of the nation to actively take up sports and build a sports culture.

Current state of sports infrastructure in India In recent years, it has been acknowledged that the construction and refurbishment of sports infrastructure can stimulate economic development, whether it involves large facilities or small. Therefore, the development of such infrastructure plays a significant role in urban planning. Currently, India houses approximately 100 sports facilities fulfilling international standards of sports infrastructure. In addition, there are government-owned





college and university grounds, community centre's, sporting facilities and grounds owned by urban local bodies, grounds owned by Resident Welfare Associations, and facilities owned by private entities. These facilities are largely neglected and ignored in terms of utilization and maintenance. Also, a majority of the Indian sports infrastructure facilities are mainly used for hosting international, national, state-, and district-level games and competitions only. As a result, the occupancy rates of the facilities remain low and they are financially dependent on the regulatory authorities for operations and maintenance. This also has an adverse effect on sports enthusiasts, who could have made efficient use of such facilities. Recently, India witnessed massive growth of franchise based sporting leagues, with 10 leagues existing in the country. Government initiatives like Khelo India have inspired many potential individuals to take up sports. To sustain this growth momentum in sports, there is a need to increase the number of sporting facilities with world-class infrastructure, which will enable the government to achieve its vision of 50 Olympic gold medals soon. As a first step, identification and consolidation of information on existing sporting facilities need to be undertaken to help upgrade and refurbishment. These facilities can then be promoted to ensure better utilization of facilities and sporting and training infrastructure by potential sportspersons.

Impact of quality sports infrastructure India has the potential to transform itself into a global sporting powerhouse with far-reaching impact on health, education and tourism. This would require a dedicated approach towards building quality sports infrastructure. Robust sports infrastructure has a positive impact on not only the development of a sport ecosystem for a country but also the community and the economy at large. This section highlights the benefits of sports infrastructure in terms of development of sports, regeneration of communities and revitalization of economies. Sports development the state of sports infrastructure within a nation largely determines the state of sports in that nation. According to the 2006 Sports policy factors leading to international sporting success (SPLISS) study, nine pillars influence the state of sports within a nation and its success in the global sporting arena, financial support, an integrated approach to policy development, participation in sports, a talent identification and development system, training facilities, coaching provision and coach development, international competition, athletic and post-career support, and scientific research. A close look highlights the critical role sports infrastructure plays, both directly and indirectly, on participation in sports, training facilities, and international competition.

India's participation in sports started in 1900 in the Summer Olympics held in Paris where one athlete Norman Pritchard participated. This led to the establishment of the Indian Olympic Association which came into existence in 1927 with Sir Dorabji Tata as its first President. Till date, despite being in international Olympics since 1900, i.e. more than 113 years, the total medals won by India in Olympics have been 26, out of which 11 are in the field of hockey. In individual events, in last 113 years there has been only 01 gold medal, 05 silver medals and 09 bronze medals taking that tally to a total of 15. It is also pertinent to mention that the ranking of India in Olympics which was 23 in 1928 at Amsterdam Olympics has gone down to 55 in 2012 London Olympics. India being a country on the move in all other fields and showing a substantial growth in all economic parameters seems to be lagging far behind many other developing countries so far as sports are concerned. Even currently, despite the best efforts of the Sports Authority of India and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the country tends to lag in sports in a big way. The first national level institute to promote sports was established in 1961 as Netaji Subhash National Institute which was supposedly the biggest in Asia in the princely city of Patiala. The Government of India established Sports Authority of India (SAI) in 1984 with 07 Regional Centre's and 02 sub centre's, besides a high altitude training centre in Himachal Pradesh. 02 national level institutes run by SAI are the Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports, Patiala and Laxmibai National College of Physical Education, Thiruvanthapuram. To promote sports in India, the Govt. of India established the Department of Sports for organizing the 1982 Asian games, which subsequently changed to Department of Youth Affairs & Sports in the year 1985, which was also the International Youth Year. It became a fully fledged Ministry in 2000 looking after the youth and sports development. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports also runs the Laxmi Bai National University of Physical Education, Gwalior which is endeavouring to provide human resource for the development of sports in the country. One of the major reasons for the dismal performance of India in the international scenario of sports has been the absence of specialized institutes which



provide all round development of sport persons by providing the inputs by the sports scientists, by proper evaluation, instructing the coaches, providing the adequate sports infrastructure, having a proper follow-up of the performance in a scientific manner. Guru Nanak Dev University being the only university in the country to have Faculty of Sports Medicine is inadequate to provide the optimal support to sport persons of this country. SAI, despite developing national institutes, has still been able to provide services to the sports persons at the rudimentary level only. 13 The need of the hour is to provide a platform to the youth of this country, so that mass participation in sports with specialized service support is facilitated and the Indian youth are able to excel in international sports. The University Grants Commission (UGC), besides providing infrastructural support, intends to create a few Centres of Excellence in various regions of the country, which will not only be the support system for our budding sport persons but also act as a nursery for sport scientists which will ultimately provide a massive human resource to the sporting associations and federations of India. For this purpose, the UGC will identify departments of physical education in 05 universities and will designate them as Centre of Excellence for Development of Sports (CEDS).

The Department of Youth Services & sports was created during the year 1982-83 with the objective of involving youth in the task of national reconstruction through the media of sports and youth development activities and to harness their energy towards eradication of social evils. 35% of the population of this Pradesh consists of youth, which need required opportunities for self-expression, self-development and cultural attainment enabling them to assume social and civic responsibilities. Prior to the creation of this department, a small cell in the Department of Education was looking after the sports activities. Since this vital aspect of human life could not receive the required priority in the Department of Education, it was felt necessary that a new Department to look after the activities of youth and sports in a proper and scientific way is established. The State of Himachal Pradesh may not have contributed much in the overall scenario of games and sports in the country internationally but over the last few years many of its sports persons have given outstanding performances in the field of sports. Sports-persons of this State have also won Padamshree and Arjuna Awards and a few have excelled themselves individually in various team games. Young players of this State have also won laurels at the National School Games. The Department of Youth Services & Sports since its creation in 1982-83 has been contributing its might in raising the standard of games and sports in the Pradesh. It has established a network of playgrounds and stadiums all over the State. In fact, every year almost 40% of its budgetary allocations are spent in providing infrastructural facilities for the up and coming youngsters in various games and sports. The Department has over the years constructed around 300 playgrounds, stadia and District level stadiums under this Scheme. Additionally, through the aegis of the State Sports Council and District Sports councils, it provides financial assistance to all the recognized State level and District level Sports Associations. The State Sports Council also provides funds for the organization of coaching camps and tournaments at various levels. There are around 22 State Sports Associations recognized by the State Sports Council. These Associations organize coaching camps, State level tournaments and sponsor teams for participation in the National level competitions. Concerted efforts need to be made at all levels to achieve results for which State Sports Policy is felt necessary. The State Sports Policy envisages that State Government will pursue the twin objectives of "Broad-basing" of Sports and "Achieving Excellence in Sports at the National and International levels" Sports activities, in which the State has potential strength and competitive advantage, need to be vigorously promoted. Towards this end, Sports and Physical Education would be integrated more effectively with the Education Curriculum. The broad basing of sports will, primarily remain a responsibility of the State Governments and the Central Government will actively supplement their two efforts in this direction and for tapping the latent talent, including in the rural and tribal areas.

Necessity was felt to establish a Department of Youth Services & Sports to look-after the activities of Youth and Sports in a proper and scientific way as the Education Department with which such activities were attached, earlier could not pay adequate attention towards various youth and sports activities in the Pradesh. Keeping in view the increased number of Youth and Sports activities, the Government created the Department of Youth Services & Sports during 1982-83. The work relating to non-student youth was transferred to this Department from Education Department in





January, 1984. Presently, National Services Scheme is being implemented in 98 colleges and 630 senior secondary schools covering 71500 students of the State.

The Sports Ministry set up Central Advisory Board for Physical Education, which recommended the National Policy of Physical Education and Recreation and also included the recommendations regarding the status of physical education, outlines of Diploma and Certificate courses in Physical Education as well as tests in physical education for boys and girls. Under its advice, National Policy and Programme of Physical Education and Sports were formulated. In view of decline in the standard of Sports in Asian Games, an ad-hoc Inquiry Committee was constituted in 1958 to suggest ways and means to bring improvement in the standard of Sports. The Committee recommended that

- There should be planning on long and short term basis in the field of sports and physical education.
- There should be central sports institute to produce first rate coaches. As a result N.L.S. Patiala was established in 1961.
- The importance of physical education teachers should not be undermined.
- More attention should be paid to rural sports.
- Better facilities by way of playgrounds are provided in educational institutions.

M.K. Kaul and M.H. Kapoor Committee were constituted for 1960 Olympics which studied the international organization of sports and Physical education. The Committee recommended that

- Physical Education should be considered as a part of general education in schools and colleges.
- Education Institutions should thoroughly organize departments of physical education. Play fields in school and colleges should be developed and maintained.
- Outstanding sportsmen in schools and colleges should be provided Scholarships.
- A network of sports and recreational clubs should be formed all over the country.

National fitness corps syllabus for school was framed and made available to States for implementation in the secondary schools of the country. In 1959 Kunzru Committee made a detailed survey of the various schemes and recommended measures for effective co-ordination of different schemes. The Government of India became very serious about the physical fitness of the youth. In 1959 National Physical efficiency drive was launched. Dr.Deshmukh UGC Committee on Physical Education (1967) recommended, "The development of Physical Education in the universities and colleges should be given the highest possible priority and regarded as an essential and integral part of education and human development." In 1964-66, Kothari Education Commission, in its report also gave guidelines for improvement of physical education and sports in the educational institutions of the country.

The National Institutes and University departments also started providing research facilities on scientific lines. Financial assistance to these institutions was liberally provided to encourage research in the areas related to physical education & sports. National Policy on Education (1986) carried a separate chapter on physical education and sports. Article 8.20 of policy states, "sports and physical education are an integral part of learning process and will be included in the evaluation of performance. A nationwide infrastructure for physical education, sports and games will be built into education orifice". One of its policy statements declared that, " Sports and physical education should be part of the curriculum as a regular subject in schools and other similar educational institutions. A comprehensive document on Physical Education Programme of Action, 1992 was prepared under National Sports Policy.

Appreciation was expressed here for the work being undertaken in each sub discipline. Higher level scholarship, development of new and more sophisticated research, increased rigor, expansion of horizons, devoted practitioners and scholars. Some of the states and other organizations like CBSE, JawaharNavodaya Schools and Central Schools have already introduced physical education as an elective subject at School and College level respectively (Hery, F, 1964).

### 3. Conclusion

Sports infrastructure plays a crucial role in achieving excellence in the global arena of sports. It not only helps in producing sports persons of international repute, but also encourages the young population of a country to participate in sporting activities with the objective of creating a culturing of sports. In India, the standard of sports infrastructure is not at a satisfactory level for a number of reasons. The lack of infrastructural facilities is one of the major constraints in the process of



development of sports in India. The objective of this article is to analyze the present state of sports infrastructure

**4. References:**

1. Anand (1965) *studied about the minimum physical facilities for playing at different levels*
2. Sharma's (1956) *study of personnel, facilities and equipment.*
3. Nath (1961) *made an investigation into the organization of sports in high and higher secondary schools of Jalandhar division in Punjab.*