

# Physical Education, Games and Sports during Second Decade of the “Inter-University Board of India”

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## ABSTRACT

*Development of Physical Education, Games, and Sports at the university level came through the contribution of different Universities, Sports regulatory boards, Government of India, Inter-University Board of India and by several organizations. University Sports got its present place due to the effort made by the authorities of the Universities and Inter-University Board as well as the Government and other organizations. In this paper, the researcher discusses the flow of events in the second decade of the Inter-University Board.*

## 1. Introduction

Association of Indian Universities is the present name of “Inter-University Board of India”. It was established in the year of 1925 in undivided India under British rule. Work area of the Board was from Peshawar to Rangoon and from Kashmir to Ceylon. Many of the founding member universities are now in different countries, like; Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. Punjab University, Dacca University, and The University of Rangoon are now not part of the Association. University of Ceylon and Vidyalkara University of Ceylon were also the members of the Board which are in Sri Lanka and also not members at present.

When the Inter-University Board of India formed, the main aim was to develop coordination among the Universities of India. Especially for the reciprocal recognition of the degrees and diplomas issued by the Universities. Later on, the Board understands the importance of sports to develop communication. And they started to give importance to sports. The Board organized several sports events during various meetings. And sometimes they organized matches between two universities.

## 2. Objective of the Paper

The objective of the paper is to find out the important flow of events during the second decade of the Board after established.

For better understanding it should be clear that, the Inter-University Board was established in 1925; the first decade of the Board was from 1925 to 1930. And the second decade was from 1931 to 1940, the researcher delimited his study during this period (1931 to 1940).

## 3. Methods

It is a historical research so it is qualitative too. The researcher went through the Annual Report, Proceedings of the Inter-University Board, some reports related to sport, books, etc. and made his interpretation on it.

## 4. The Flow of Events in Second Decade(1931 to 1940)

At the very beginning of the decade, Najmunnisa Begam of the Zenana College of Osmania University awarded European Scholarship for the course of Training in Physical Education at the Bedford Physical Training College.

Andhra University appointed Mr. H.C. Buck, Principal YMCA College of Physical Education, Madras to visit each college, to inspect grounds, equipment, etc. Benares Hindu University training corps was very satisfactory; they won Efficiency Cup for the fifth time in 1931. They also won the platoon Efficiency challenge Shield, the Physical training Inter-Detachment Cup, the Talugder’s Cup, the Inter-Company Football Challenge Cup, the Boxing Challenge Cup ND THE Cross-Country Challenge Cup. The strength of the company was increased to 119.

The Director of Physical Training of the University of Bombay worked hard and organized a successful training Camp for students and issued certificates of merit. Lucknow University organized a training camp for university training corps. The University of Madras played a Cricket Match with Aligarh University in Madras. Osmania University received a donation of Rs.500/- for the Aurangabad Cricket tournament.

Annamalai University participated in the Inter-university Provincial Athletic Tournament in February 1932 under the auspices of the Madras University. The University entered teams for competition in Hockey Tennis and Football. Madras University arranged for an Indian Universities Tournament in February 1932 in hockey, football, and tennis. Madras, Andhra, and Annamalai universities took part.

IUB passed a resolution on the matter of the introduction of Military Science which was requested by the Government of India to start a degree in Military Science. In response to this the Universities of Agra, Allahabad, Nagpur, and Patna sought to introduce Military Studies, but some other Universities considered that such studies were not of a sufficiently high

standard to fulfil the requirements of a university degree, while a merely practical course in Military Training might not be popular unless lead to regular commissions in the army and it is known that the military authorities were not very well inclined towards this. At this point, the universities were suggested to issue 'A' certificates and 'B' certificates for the qualified students with the cooperation of the military authority like England.

In 1933, Andhra University appointed a Sports Committee to take steps to organize the sports activities of the university. The university training corps of Banaras Hindu University won the inter-platoon Efficiency Cup, Boxing Challenge Cup, the Cross Country Challenge Cup, and Taluqdar's Cup of Sports. Delhi University organized several Inter-University Matches with Calcutta, Aligarh, Madras Universities in Cricket and Hockey, and Tennis with Madras University. Two extension lectures were delivered in Lucknow University, entitled- "Science of Yogic Physical Culture" and "Some Physiological Aspects of Yogic Exercise" by Swami Kavalayanand of the Lonavla Ashram, Poona,

Resolution resolved that the railway Board would be approached with the request that concessions would be granted to all College teams traveling to take part in every event comprising Sports Tournaments organized by an incorporated University in India. The railway board considered the request of the Inter-University Board for concessions for sports teams restricted for Hockey, Football and Cricket only. Inter-University Board again took the initiative to send a request to the railway board with a request to consider for a concession for other sports events too.

Aligarh Muslim University did well in cricket, Hockey, Tennis, and Mr. Mirza Fahim Beg won the individual provincial Championship at the Uttar Pradesh Olympic Athletic Meet in 1934. Annamalai University completed the construction of a sports pavilion at a cost of Rs.10000/-, and a boating Scheme was Sanctioned by the Syndicate and a sum of Rs.5000 was sanctioned in the budget for 1934-35 towards the construction of a Boat House, a swimming pool and the necessary equipment. Nagpur University appointed a physical instructor; the university sports tournament was arranged. An Inter-University Cricket match was arranged with Osmania University.

The Inter-University Board of India resolved where university training corps newly formed. Dr. A.C. Woolner mentioned a widespread impression of universities and colleges which were not doing well on the physical welfare of students, and so that the young graduates were going in the wrong line and they wasting their time. He also proposed to teach 'Nature Study Sports, Aesthetic along with Science, Geography, History and either a Classical or a modern language.

Annamalai University organized a coaching camp in cricket by Mr. J.W. Hitch, All-England, and Surrey Cricket Eleven in 1935. This was hoped that this will help to improve the standard or cricket of the University. Benares Hindu University's Training Corps won the Efficiency Cup for the

eight time along with Boxing Challenge Cup, Tug of War Cup, and Runner up in the Long Range Shooting Cup and Sir TegBahadurSapru Football Cup. The University of Punjab approached Physical Training periodic and methodological medical inspections with a record kept and those colleges were requested to appoint a qualified physical trainer which the colleges did not have.

In 1935-36 Inter-University Board took a resolution for the provision of facilities for physical Training. From the replies received it is clear that physical training was already receiving considerable attention at the hands of provincial and university authorities. Ordinances came for the universities by IUB on the athletic and physical training of students of the university. In which some important ordinances were--

1. Compulsory medical examination for all students,
2. Who have joined university training corps and kept a required percentage of attendance were exempted from the medical certificate.
3. 60 hours of training was compulsory for promotion to the higher class,
4. Setting up exercises and (a) Swedish drill (b) Gymnastics, (c) Wrestling (d) Boxing, (e) Fencing (f) Swimming (g) Games- Cricket, Football, Hockey, Tennis (h) Rowing were suggested to comprise,
5. The university shall maintain the necessary staff for physical training.

Most of the universities were agreed with the proposal of the Inter-University Board. Some were recorded, most of them were already have their provision of physical training and took necessary steps for that. Proper representatives of various provincial Governments were also replied positively. Among them, the Government of Assam already done what was possible to introduce physical culture in schools, activities, equipment, qualified instructors, etc.

Bengal Government also opened a training centre for school teachers. The government of Burma already had a sanctioned scheme for physical training in schools. Appointed Assistant Inspector of physical training in schools, and Physical Instructors' Certificates and issued for successful candidates. The Government of Bombay also replied and informed whatever they did and gave some suggestions on Physical training in schools and college-university also. The Government of Madras also gave very importance to the proposal of the Inter-University Board. They pointed out the report on public instruction in the Madras Presidency for the quinquennium ending 1931-32 & 1933-34. The Government of North-West Frontier Province, Government of Hyderabad, and Government of Punjab also replied.

Resolution resolved of the recommendations of the Board on Military Training as an additional optional subject at the Intermediate and B.A. stages. On the matter the 'Board of High School and Intermediate Education, U.P., Allahabad also replied along with some universities.

A resolution was passed on the organizing of Inter-Collegiate and Inter-University debate and contest in athletics and Games.

In 1936, the Annual Meeting of the Inter-University Board also organized a tea on sports ground at the time of sports final (not mentioned much more), and on the next day organizers organized a tennis match on the swimming pool lawns after that they distributed prize.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India developed the rules for the Championship in Cricket organized by the Inter-University Board.

Athletics and Hockey matches were organized in between the annual meeting of the Inter-University Board held at Nagpur in 1937. The University of Bombay proposed to organize an athletic meet on an All-India basis at least once every five years and the Board invited Universities to furnish their opinion about their practicability of the proposal. And it was resolved in the next year, and most of the universities were agreed with the resolution, only Andhra and Patna Universities disagreed with the proposal.

Calcutta University suggested for contribution from all the Universities for the purpose. Delhi University feared the financial difficulties for the smaller universities. Madras University proposed to take help from the All-India Olympic Association. Mysore University was more enthusiastic, they proposed to organize the meet once in every 3 years, and they also proposed to organize the meet in several universities centre in rotation. But the Board decided that it was not practicable to organize an athletic meet on an All-India basis.

Inter-University Board requested to the Universities to pay Rs.10/- for each game/event for Inter-University Tournaments. Inter-University Tournaments were subdivided on a basis of geographical contiguity, as- East Zone, North Zone, Central Zone, and South Zone. Osmania University included in Central Zone, which was opposed by Prof. Qazi Mohammad Husain. For athletics & Swimming, it was decided to have only two zones- East & North and South & Central. The committee of Inter-University Board for Inter-university Tournaments gave an option that no particular university centre should be permanently fixed as the only place for a tournament. They recommended that the fixing of the venues for the conduct of the annual zone and inter-Zone tournaments should go by rotation and that every competing university should be given a

chance and also suggested for conducting the tournaments for the first year 1940-41.

Inter-University Board approached the BCCI for permitting the RohintonBaria Trophy for the Inter-University Tournament in Cricket. For the first time, Inter-University Board decided to organize Inter-University Tournaments in various games in different university centres in rotation-wise on a zone&an All-India basis. Games were-- Cricket, Football, Hockey, Tennis, Athletics, and Swimming. For the first time the board allotted financial assistance for Inter-University Sports in its annual Budget, that was Rs.1200/- where the total budget was Rs.16625/-.

## 5. Conclusion

It definitely can be said that the Board and the Indian Universities taken lots of action toward Sports. They understood the importance of sports to buildup communication among themselves as well as the impact on the students' health. Mr. H.C. Buck the renowned Physical Educationist prepared a report and emphasized the physical activities and health of the students made a positive impact on the Board officials. He went to various Colleges to inspect grounds, equipment, and overall sports Infrastructure. This was a positive attempt taken by Madras University.

Various universities organized several training camps and organized competitions of different games and physical fitness. Provincial Athletic Tournament and Indian Universities Tournament in Hockey, Football, and Tennis was a great start in 1932.

The British Government also wanted to give importance to fitness through Military Science, maybe their intention was different. Proposal for the concession of a university team was also a great initiative. In 1935-36 the inter University Board declare an ordinance to examine and develop the fitness of the students. The Board of Control for Cricket in India also came forward to develop the rules for the Championship in cricket organized by the Inter-University Board. The Inter-University Board of India introduced Inter-University Tournaments in the last year of the decade. The tournaments were organized in Athletics, Hockey, and Tennis in the year 1940 and became the most successful events of the Board.

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