

XIX Commonwealth Games: Corruption and Administrative Responsibility

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INTRODUCTION

The 2010 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XIX Commonwealth Games, were held in Delhi, India, from 3 to 14 October 2010. A total of 6,081 athletes from 71 Commonwealth nations and dependencies competed in 21 sports and 272 events, making it the largest Commonwealth Games till date. It was also the largest international multi-sport event to be staged in Delhi and India, eclipsing the Asian Games in 1951 and 1982. The opening and closing ceremonies were held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the main stadium of the event. It was the first time that the Commonwealth Games were held in India and the second time it was held in Asia after Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1998. The official mascot of the Games was *Shera* and the official song of the Games, "Jiyo Utho Bado Jeeto", was composed by celebrated Indian musician A.R. Rahman. Preparation for the Games received widespread international media attention, with criticism being leveled against the organizers for the slow pace of work, as well as issues related to security and hygiene. However, all member nations of the Commonwealth of Nations participated in the event, except Fiji, which is suspended from the Commonwealth, and Tokelau, which didn't send a team, in spite of threats of boycotts and athlete withdrawals.

BIDDING

The two principal bids for the 2010 Commonwealth Games were from Delhi, India and Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. A ballot of members was held in November 2003 at the Commonwealth Games Federation General Assembly in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Delhi bid won by a margin of 46 votes to 22, confirming India's first successful bid for the Games. The bid was Canada's attempt to hold the games for the fifth time. India's bid motto was New Frontiers and Friendships. India shifted the balance in its favor in the second round of voting with a promise that it would provide

US\$100,000 to each participating country, along with air tickets, boarding, lodging and transport. The successful 2003 Afro-Asian Games held in Hyderabad was also seen as having showed India has the resources, infrastructure and technical know-how to stage a big sporting event. India also thanked Latif Butt, former vice president of the Olympic Council of Asia, for his support in the winning bid, by saying, "You played a vital role in the Commonwealth Games 2010 being allotted to India. Such actions are worthy of emulation by all concerned in Pakistan and India.

ORGANIZATION

The organization of CWG 2010 was beset by delays: in January 2010, the Indian Olympic Association vice-chairman Raja Randhir Singh expressed concern that Delhi was not up to speed in forming and organizing its games committee and, following a 2009 Indian Government report showing two thirds of venues were behind schedule, Commonwealth Games Federation president Mike Fennell stated that the slow progress of preparations represented a serious risk to the event. Singh also called for a revamp of the games' organizing committees: Jarnail Singh, a former Secretary of the Government of India, was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Indian Olympic Association president Suresh Kalmadi was appointed as head of the committee. In spite of delays and the corruption cases levied on the organizers, commentators stated that they were confident that India will successfully host the games and do so on time.

At the launch of the Queen's Baton Relay in October 2009, the Business Club of India (BCI) was formed through the partnership of the organizing committee, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The BCI was formed to both market the Games and promote Indian business interests internationally. Cost and Transport The initial total budget estimated by the Indian Olympic Association in 2003 for hosting the Games was 1,620 crore (US\$328.54 million). In 2010, however, the official total budget soon escalated to an estimated 11,500 crore (US\$2.33 billion), a figure which excluded non-sports-related infrastructure development.[20] Business Today magazine estimated that the Games cost 60,000 crore (US\$12.17 billion). The 2010 Commonwealth Games are reportedly the most expensive Commonwealth Games ever.

A four-lane flyway, 2.2 km stretch from Lodhi Road to trans-Yamuna, linking the Games Village to the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was constructed which reduced the travelling time between the village and the Stadium to six minutes. In response to concerns over the large number of trains that pass by the Delhi metropolitan region daily, construction of road under-bridges and over-bridges along railway lines have been completed. Indira Gandhi International Airport is being modernized, expanded, and upgraded. Costing nearly \$1.95 billion, Terminal 3 has improved airport passenger capacity to more than 37 million passengers a year by 2010. A new runway has been constructed, allowing for more than 75 flights an hour. At more than 4400 metres long, it will be one of Asia's longest. The airport has been connected to the city via a six-lane expressway (Delhi–Gurgaon Expressway) and the \$580 million Delhi Airport Metro Express line.

MASCOT AND OFFICIAL SONG

The official mascot for the 2010 Commonwealth Games is *Shera*, an anthropomorphised tiger. His name comes from "Sher", a hindi word meaning tiger (Hindi "Bagh" means tiger. However, Sher is colloquially used for both lion and tiger). The logo and the look for the games were designed by Idiom Design and Consulting. There is one song for Shera also composed by the popular composer of INDIA the song contains initiative "Shera Shera" The mascot Shera is visiting many schools across Delhi to create enthusiasm and interest for the Commonwealth Games being held. The official song of the 2010 Commonwealth Games "Jiyo Utho Bado Jeeto" was composed and performed by the Indian musician A. R. Rahman. The song's title is based on the slogan of the games, "Come out and play". The song is penned by Mehboob in Hindi with a sprinkling of English words. It was released on 28 August 2010. The music video, directed by Bharath Bala was released on 23 September and featured a shorter version of the song. A. R. Rahman also gave a live concert for the theme song in Gurgaon, Haryana which was previewed on various news channels.

CORRUPTION IN CONSTRUCTION OF STADIA AND PURCHASING OF MATERIAL RESOURCES

The various contracts were manipulated by Kalmadi and team and allegedly misappropriated huge amounts in the process. Administrators and organizers has done lot of corruption in the matter of allocation of grounds, construction of stadiums and purchasing of materials. Renovation of stadia appears to be a top favourite. The Pune Administration constructed Balevadi Stadium at a cost of Rs. 500 crore for holding of the National Games. Kalmadi undertook a renovation that was as good as new construction, spending Rs. 318 crore. His man Ajay Shirke, a realtor, was given the contract, but he was misused all these funds. Construction of a hostel for budding athletes was another trick up his sleeve. The idea was that such players would come to Pune for training after the 2008 Games. But the hostel adjacent to Balevadi Stadium was not ready in time and players were housed in hotels at exorbitant tariffs, this was also misused.

The CAG Reports alleges that various CWG associations were provided hotel accommodation and travel grants to the tune of Rs. 38 lakh, but the OC could recover only Rs. 17 lakh from them. Then, Rs. 1.8 crore was given to fellow sports organisations for conducting seminars and refresher courses.

CORRUPTION IN SELECTION PROCESS

Such a prestigious game suffered with corruption due to lack of Administrative and official accountability in selection process, the selection process is currently underway to finalize the team of youth athletes to represent St. Kitts and Nevis in the up-coming quadrennial Commonwealth Games to be held Oct. 3 – 14 in Delhi, India. The recently concluded Central American and Caribbean Games in Puerto Rico, and the CUT Games at Silver Jubilee Stadium represented the final tune-ups for the major international athletic event. While avid preparations are taking place locally also suffered with corruption, a storm of controversy has erupted in India over recent revelations of massive corruption, inclusive of secret bank accounts and forged documents, that involve authorities tasked with administrating over the Games. So far, the brewing scandal has cost two top Commonwealth Games officials their jobs, and more are currently under intense scrutiny.

On Monday, Aug. 9, it was announced that the Organising Committee's Joint Director T.S. Darbari had been fired by India's sports ministry. The other director, M. Jeyachandran, and Deputy Director General Sanjay Mohindroo both remain under suspension due to corruption. The final arbiters regarding conditions on the ground in Delhi will be CGF officials, not members of the local organizing committee in India, according to Bridgewater. He also noted that apprehensions about venues and cost overruns are often raised in the months and days leading up to major sporting events. "It isn't unusual to have those concerns, even for the Olympic games," he explained. "But the countries who are hosting have so much at stake, that they usually finish things." He did, however, admit that there were special concerns about Delhi, given the many issues being raised so close to the event's commencement.

PARTIES INVOLVED

Like any other scams it involved politicians, bureaucrats and corporates acting in collusion. Politicians involved Suresh Kalmadi, the Congress party representative to 15 Lok Sabha from the Pune constituency. He was the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Delhi Commonwealth games. Sheila Dikshit, Chief minister of Delhi: Was indicted for several irregularities in the CWG processes both by Shunglu committee and also by the CAG. Bureaucrats involved Lalit Bhanot, Secretary General of the Organising committee, TS Darbari, Joint Director General of the Organising committee, Sanjay Mahindroo, Deputy Director General of the Organising committee.

BS Lalli, CEO of Prasar Bharat. Corporations involved AM Films, AM Cars, SIS Live, Jaypee Group, Its alleged that the proceeds of corruption are parked here through financial involvement of Suresh Kalmadi's son, Sumeer Kalmadi in the F1 circuit project at Greater Noida, MTNL, HCL Infosystems. Businessmen involved RSP Sinha, MTNL CMD, SM Talwar, Executive director MTNL, NK Jain, GM (Corporate Sales) MTNL, Jitendra Garg, DGM MTNL. Formation of investigation committee The day after the conclusion of the Games, the Indian Government announced the formation of a special committee to probe the allegations of corruption and mismanagement against the Organizing Committee. The probe committee will be led by former Comptroller and Auditor General of India VK Shunglu. This probe will be in addition to the Central Bureau of Investigation, Enforcement Directorate, and Central Vigilance Commission investigations already underway.

Kalmadi, an MP with the ruling Congress party, was arrested for alleged irregularities in the Queen's Baton Relay event held in London before the Games and also for allegedly handing out contracts to Swiss Timing that provided equipment and services at exorbitant rates, causing a huge loss to the Government, according to a spokeswoman for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Kalmadi, a 66-year-old former fighter pilot who has been President of the Indian Olympic Association since 1996, has denied the allegations and will seek bail when he appears in court tomorrow, according to his lawyer Hitesh Jain. Two other senior officials on the Games' Organising Committee were arrested earlier for involvement in the same case. The CBI accused secretary general Lalit Bhanot and director general V K Verma of causing a huge loss to the Indian Government by paying 1.41 billion rupees (£19 million/\$31 million) to Swiss Timings Ltd for equipment available from another company for much less. Kalmadi has been arrested under Sections 120 B and 420 [criminal conspiracy and cheating] of the Indian Penal Code, said CBI spokesperson Dharini Mishra.

CONCLUSION

CBI sources lodged Preliminary Enquiry report against unknown persons in the Games organizing body after it received several complaints and references from the Central Vigilance Commission claiming violation of norms in the appointments. They said the complainants alleged involvement of sacked OC Chairman Suresh Kalmadi, who is at present in judicial custody, and his close aides for irregularities in the recruitment process. In its PE, the CBI has alleged that during the period of 2003 to 2009, some persons were nominated to the OC who had no expertise for various jobs. The Games organizing body had an overall strength of about 2,100 officials engaged for various duties related to the mega sporting event. At present, there are about 100 officials on the rolls. The CVC has also conducted an enquiry into the alleged recruitment scam following complaints that it showed ghost employees on its muster rolls and violated norms while inducting people. The High Level Shunglu Committee had also found alleged irregularities in the recruitment procedures followed by certain OC officials

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