

Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports

Sub: Tour Report on the visit of Secretary (Sports) to Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia from 18th to 23rd August, 2018 for the XVIII Asian Games

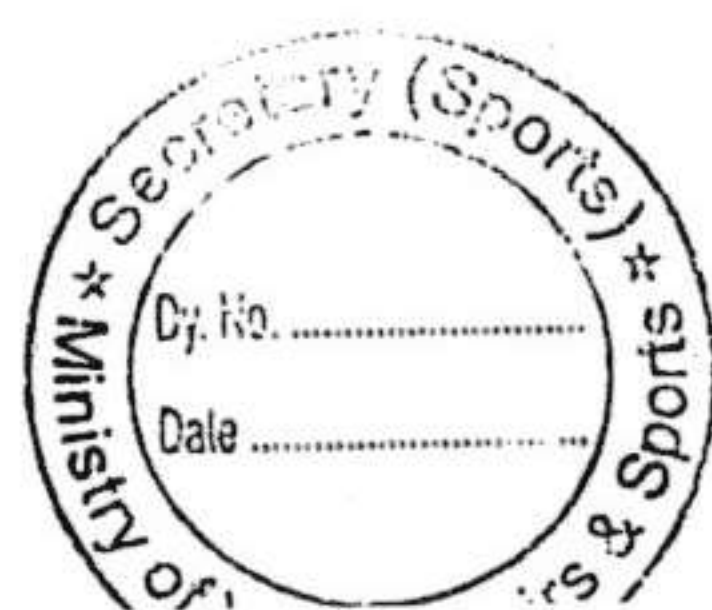
This is the tour report of the visit of the undersigned to Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia from 18th to 23rd August, 2018 to witness the XVIII Asian Games.

18th August, 2018:

I visited the Athletes Village. Most of the Indian sports persons had already arrived in Jakarta and Palembang. Visited the residential accommodation provided to the athletes. Compared to the Athletes Village in Gold Coast and 2010 Commonwealth Games Village in New Delhi, the size of the rooms was smaller and it was on twin-sharing basis. Also visited the dining area of the Games Village. The Games Village has been newly constructed with 8-storeyed apartments. It was learnt that after the completion of Asian Games, these flats would be provided for the economically weaker sections in Jakarta. Met the Indian sports persons who were all assembling to proceed for the Opening Ceremony which was to be held today at 7.00 p.m. Also met the Chef-de-Mission, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, and other officials of the delegation.

Attended the reception hosted by the Asian Games Organizing Committee in the Fairmont Hotel which is the Games family hotel. This reception was attended by Ambassadors of the Asian countries as well as official delegates from the various countries. Immediately after the reception, all delegates proceeded to the GBK Sports Complex where the Opening Ceremony was to be held in the main stadium. This is the stadium where Indonesia, for the first time, hosted the Asian Games in 1961. It does not appear that very significant modifications have been done in this stadium. The floor in the VIP area continues to be of mosaic and the seats also seem to be old and of the earlier style. The capacity of the stadium is around 35,000.

The Opening Ceremony commenced at 7.00 p.m. with the arrival of the President, Mr. Joko Widodo. Mr. Erick Tohir, President of the National Olympic Committee, who is also the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, was also present on the stage. The theme of these Games was "Energy of Asia." The mascots for these Asian Games were (i) 'Bhin Bhin' (Bird of Paradise); (ii) 'Kaka' (Single Horned Rhinoceros); and, (iii) 'Atung' (Bawean Deer). The protocol segment of the ceremony consisted of the march past of the athletes of 45 countries and hoisting of the flag of the Olympic Committee of Asia (OCA). President, OCA, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, was also on the stage. For the Opening Ceremony, a huge mountain and valley had been created in the stadium, which formed the backdrop for all the dances and presentations. The themes of the Opening Ceremony were air, earth, wind and fire and their inter-relationship with human beings. Local newspapers had quoted the cost of the Opening Ceremony as \$ 55 million (Rs. 385 crore approx.). 'Meraih Bintang' was the official theme song of the Games. Notable feature of the Opening Ceremony was that the contingents of North Korea and South Korea joined the parade as one contingent.



From pre-page:

19th August, 2018:

I visited the Aquatic Centre in the GBK Sports Complex. This has been renovated for the Asian Games and it has a capacity of almost 9,000 spectators. Witnessed the heats of 100 M Freestyle, 100 M Butterfly and Breast Stroke. Thereafter, I went to the Jakarta Convention Centre which has the venue for Wrestling. Met the officials of Wrestling Federation of India including the President, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Witnessed the 74 kg. Freestyle wrestling bout between Sushil Kumar and the Wrestler from Bahrain. Unfortunately, Sushil Kumar lost this bout. Also saw in action wrestler, Sandeep Tomar, in 57 kg. He won his bout against a wrestler from Turkmenistan.

The Convention Centre also has the venue for Taekwondo. Witnessed some bouts of Taekwondo.

Attended the reception hosted by Indian Olympic Association at Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Jakarta.

20th August, 2018:

Left Jakarta for Palembang by Garuda Airlines. It is about a one hour flight from Jakarta to Palembang which is in the Island of Sumatra.

I first went to see the venue of Sepaktakraw events. Met the President of Asian Sepaktakraw Federation and other officials of the Indian Federation. Witnessed the women's team match of India against Laos. This was won by the Laos team. The Indian men's team had reached the Semi-Finals.

Visited the Athletes Village at Palembang. Was able to meet a number of Indian players who were staying at the Games Village. Then left for the Shooting venue. Witnessed the Trap events Final in which Lakshay Sheoran from India won the Silver medal. Manavjit Singh Sandhu, however, could not make it to the medals. Interacted with a number of shooters, such as, Shreyasi Singh, Coach Mansher Singh and others.

Then visited the venue for Tennis. Witnessed the women's doubles match between India and Pakistan. Indian team was much stronger and won the match. Also met the Indian women's coach, Ankita Bhambri. The Counsel General of India in Medan, Dr. Shalia Shah, under whose jurisdiction Palembang comes, was also present.

21st August, 2018:

Left for the Rowing / Canoeing venue in the morning with IOA and Indian Embassy officials. This is a newly constructed, very high quality venue. Met the President of Rowing Federation of India, Rajalaxmi Singh Deo, and other officials of the Rowing Federation. Witnessed the Repechage of the "Doubles Sculls" for men. Indian men had qualified for the Finals. Thereafter, visited the entire facility. Met the officials of Asian Rowing Federation and Chinese Rowing Federation and also the Governor of Sumatra, Mr. Alex Noerdin.

Thereafter, again went to the Shooting venue and witnessed the 10M Air

From pre-page:

but finally ended up with a Silver medal. Witnessed both the medal ceremonies. Thereafter, again went to the Games Village and met the athletes at Lunch. Most of the venues in Palembang are clustered around the Games Village.

Thereafter, returned by flight from Palembang to Jakarta.

22nd August, 2018:

Visited the venue for Fencing which was in the Jakarta Convention Centre. Witnessed some Fencing competitions which were underway. Thereafter, I went to the Archery venue. Was able to meet the Vice President of Asian Archery Federation and the Archery Federations of some other countries. Also present there was the President of National Olympic Committee of Japan, who is also responsible for the organization of 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Had some discussions with him about Japan's preparations for the Tokyo Olympics. Vice President of Asian Archery Federation, Mr. Chapol requested me to quickly resolve the crisis of Archery Association of India so that the elections can be held and recognition of the Association can be restored. In the evening, visited the Jakarta Expo Centre which was the venue for the Bridge competitions. Met Secretary General of the Bridge Federation of India, Mr. Anand K.S. Samant, who showed me the entire facilities created for the Bridge events. Met the Indian players, Kiran Nadar and Hema Deora who had just completed their one of the matches.

I then visited the venue for Wushu which was also in the Jakarta Expo Centre. Met Mr. Bhupinder Singh Bajwa, President of Wushu Association of India. Saw the semi-final matches for three weight categories for men and one weight category for women in which Indian players were participating. All the four Indian players lost their bouts, but were able to get bronze medals as losing semi-finalists.

23rd August, 2018:

Today, I visited the venue for Gymnastics at the Jakarta Expo Centre. Met the various officials who had accompanied the Indian gymnastics team. Witnessed the Finals of the Women's Vault. The Indian girls, namely, Aruna Budda Reddy and Pranati Nayak, finished 7th & 8th respectively. Seo Jong Yeo of Korea won the Gold.

I then came back to the GBK Sports Arena and visited the Basketball venue where I witnessed a preliminary match between India and Indonesia. India lost the match 69-66. Also met officials of the Basketball Federation of India and the coaches.

I then went to the Squash venue which is adjacent to the Basketball venue. Met the Squash Coach, Cyrus Poncha, and other officials of the Squash Federation of India. Witnessed the match between Deepika Pallikal and an Indonesian player. This match was won easily by Deepika Pallikal. Also witnessed the match of Joshna Chinappa which was a pre-quarter final match against the Philippines player, which she won quite easily.


(Rahul Bhatnagar)
Secretary (Sports)
12.08.2018

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