

# SHARED HISTORY: THE HINDU EDITORIAL ON THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Human resources, Youth, Sports and related issues

The [Commonwealth Games](#) (CWG), alluding to a happily ever-after between England and its former colonies, may have its legacy issues. And in terms of the competitive yardstick, with the obvious absence of the United States of America, Russia and China, the CWG is considered a notch below the Olympics and the Asian Games. Yet, the CWG has a certain value in being a multi-nation quadrennial event that pits a disparate group of countries split by continents and fused by a shared past linked to the British Empire. It offers athletes one more shot at glory besides inspiring their fans to pursue sport with added vigour. In the latest edition that concluded at Birmingham on Monday, [India with a medal haul of 61](#), inclusive of 22 golds, was placed fourth while Australia, host England and Canada led the charts. With shooting excluded from the CWG, India lost out on an additional yield. Most Indian medals told a tale etched by hope, diligence and hard work. If [Sharath Kamal's table tennis exploits](#), even at 40, proved that sportspersons can fight the dimming light, weightlifter [Sanket Sargar's silver](#) in the men's 55kg segment, showed that financial difficulties cannot derail a focused athlete. Four years ago, Sanket used to sell paan from a tiny shop at Sangli in Maharashtra, and his is a story that needs to be cherished.

Similar is the personal history linked to weightlifter [Achinta Sheuli, who won gold in the 73kg division](#). Achinta, his brother Alok and mother did embroidery. The siblings also worked in the fields, fighting poverty and coping with the demise of their father. Like Sanket, Achinta's too is a story of hope and redemption. If fresh athletes caught the eye with their triumph over tough circumstances, the established ones reiterated their dominance too. P.V. Sindhu, who will now be counted among India's greatest ever athletes, [won gold in the badminton women's singles](#) while her male counterpart [Lakshya Sen did an encore](#). Fresh territories were annexed too as in a field always dominated by the Africans, [Avinash Sable won silver](#) in the men's 3000m steeplechase. Boxer [Nikhata Zareen again landed a solid punch](#) for women-power while her colleague Lovlina Borgohain's failure and the issues surrounding her personal coach in the lead-up to the CWG, revealed faultlines. Medals were secured in hockey and women's cricket but they were not gold and the respective squads displayed fragility in crunch situations. That sport is not always war minus the shooting was evident when Neeraj Chopra effusively praised Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who won gold in the men's javelin. The latest success in the CWG, should hold the Indian athletes in good stead as they prepare for next year's Asian Games in China.

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