

Study of A Comparative Performance of Indian Table Tennis Players in National Games 2015 and Olympic Games 2012 & Trajectory of Performance in Rio 2016 Olympics

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ABSTRACT

Present article was taken with the objectives in mind to compare the performance of Indian Table Tennis players in various games and to predict the probability of their selection and medal winning in upcoming Rio 2016 Olympics. To serve the purpose of the paper, performance of Indian Table Tennis players were compared in different game formats as well as ipsitive comparison were also carries out to draw a line of performance. On the basis of these comparisons, probabilities of their selection and medal winning is estimated. As per the ITTF World Ranking March-2015, Indian players are not holding world ranking under 28 positions. Therefore, as in Olympic Games-2012, at least two players would be selected from Continental events for Rio Olympic-2016 and on the basis of their performance in National Games 2015, there is a strong probability that they would definitely perform better in Rio 2016 Olympic.

INTRODUCTION

Table Tennis, a modified and advanced version of Ping pong, is a sport which is played across a table, divided by net, with the help of a Table Tennis bat. Table Tennis game is very fast and demands quick reactions. Table Tennis is governed by the worldwide organization International Table Tennis Federation, founded in 1926. Table Tennis has been an Olympic sport since 1988, with several event categories. In particular, from 1988 until 2004, these were: men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles and women's doubles. Since 2008, a team event is played instead of the doubles.

After the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, the ITTF instituted several rule changes that were aimed at making Table Tennis more viable as a televised spectator sport. First, the older 38 mm (1.50 in) balls, were officially replaced by 40 mm (1.57 in) balls, in October 2000. This increased the ball's

air resistance and effectively slowed down the game. A few months later, the ITTF changed from a 21-point to an 11-point scoring system (and the serve rotation was reduced from five points to two), effective in September 2001. This was intended to make games more fast-paced and exciting.

Table Tennis' rules are very similar to those of Tennis; but, the sport has its own scoring and serving system. Games end in 11 points or whenever one of the participants becomes two points up if there is a 10-10 tie. While in Tennis the same player serves throughout an entire game. In Table Tennis service alternates every two points. If the score is 10-10, service alternates for every point played. In doubles, the players take turns not just to serve, but also to hit the ball during play. Single matches are played as the best of seven games – whoever wins four games first takes the match –, while in team events – with no more than three participants in each team – there are four single matches

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and one doubles match; all playing for the best of five games. When one team wins three matches, the fixture is over.

A single elimination system is used on Olympic competition, and the losers of the semi-finals compete for bronze medals. The player's position at the draw, either in singles or teams, is defined by their world ranking position.

Aims and Objectives:

Objective of this work is to compare performance of Indian Table Tennis players

in Olympic 2012 and National Games 2015; and to draw a trajectory of their performance in upcoming Rio Olympics 2016.

METHODOLOGY

To achieve the abovesaid objective, performance of Indian Table Tennis players has been recorded from Olympic 2012, Commonwealth Games 2014, Asian Games 2014, their international and national ranking and National Games 2015 and compared event-wise and game-wise.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

Table-1: India at Olympic 2012, Commonwealth Games 2014 and Asian Games 2014

Country	Olympic 2012 (Rank-37)				Commonwealth Games 2014 (Rank -5)				Asian Games 2014 (Rank-8)			
	G	S	B	Total	G	S	B	Total	G	S	B	Total
India (Overall)	0	2	4	6	15	30	19	64	11	10	36	57
Table Tennis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

India clinched total 6 medals (Gold-0, Silver-2, and Bronze-6) in all sports in Olympic 2012 and secured 37th ranking. In Commonwealth Games 2014, total 64 medals (Gold-15, Silver-30 and Bronze-19) with 5th ranking in medal standing; whereas, in Asian Games 2014, total 57 medals (Gold-11, Silver-10, and Bronze-36), with 8th ranking in medal tally.

Table-2: Olympic 2012 (Men Singles)

S. No.	Name of Player	Opponent Player	Result
1	Rank 110	Rank 65 (PRK)	India loose by 1- 4 (Second Round)

Table-2: Olympic 2012 (Women Singles)

S. No.	Name of Player	Opponent Player	Result
1	Rank 187	Ramirez Sara	India loose by 1- 4 (First Round)

Indian Table Tennis players (both male and female) could not go beyond first and second round game and lost their matches in Olympic 2012

Table- 3: National International Ranking of Indian Female Table Tennis Players

S. No.	Rank	National Ranking		International Ranking		International Players	
		Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank
1	Rank -1	315	1	1836	226	3212	1
2	Rank -2	265	2	-	215	3168	2
3	Rank -3	230	3	1591(2014)	NA	3122	3
4	Rank -4	220	4	1895	183	3025	4
5	Rank -5	170	5	2044	133	2987	5

Table- 4: National/International Ranking of Indian Male Table Tennis Players

S. No.	Rank	National Ranking		International Ranking		International Players	
		Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank
1	Rank -1	360	1	1766	171	3075	1
2	Rank -2	225	2	-	-	2993	2
3	Rank -3	165	3	1644	242	2893	3
4	Rank -4	155	4	-	280	2879	4
5	Rank -5	155	5	969	566	2784	5

On the basis of this Table, it is evident that Indian players are far behind in International ranking and points as compared to top 5 International players in both male and female category.

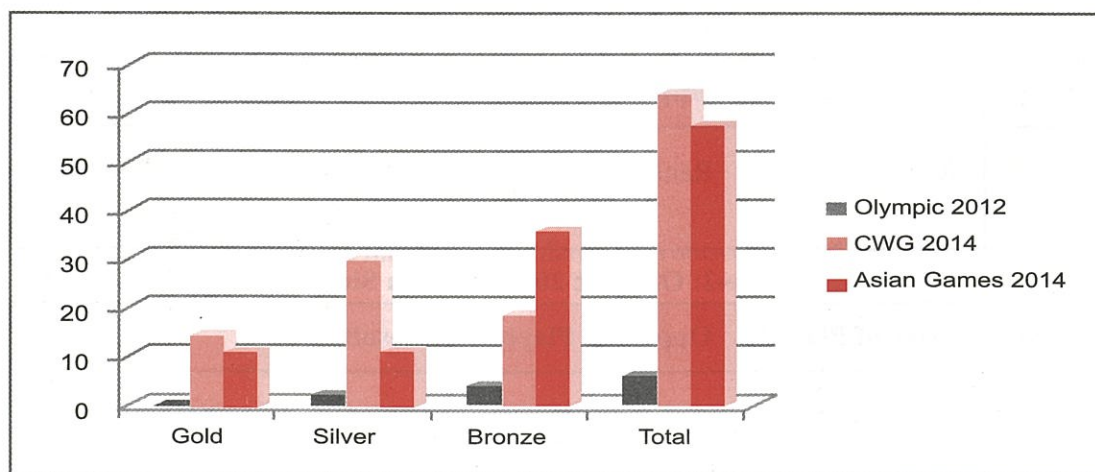


Fig.- 1: Medal tally of Indian players (Overall) in Olympic-2012, Commonwealth Games-2014 and Asian Games-2014.

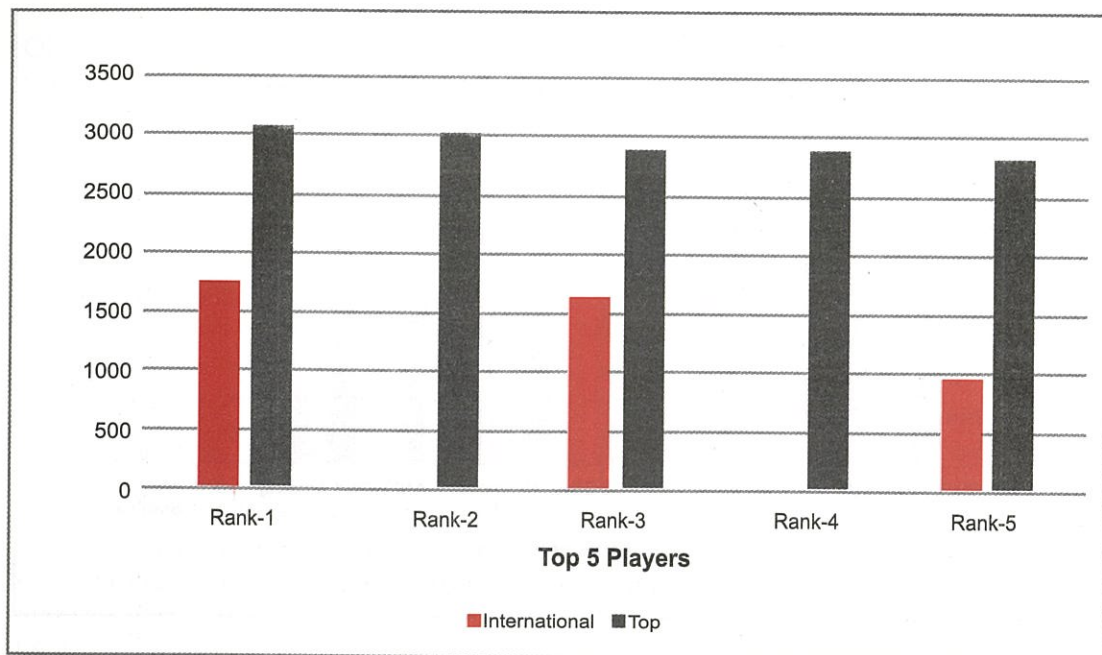


Fig.- 2 : Comparison of top five Indian Table Tennis players (male) with top five International players (male) in terms of points accumulated till March 2015

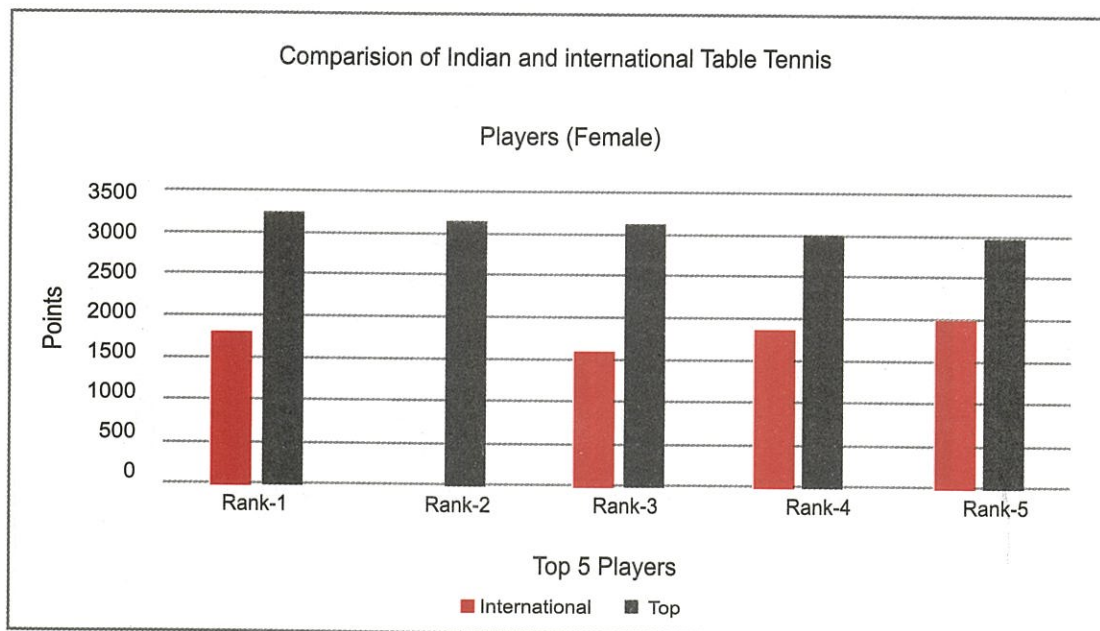


Fig.- 3 : Comparison of top five Indian Table Tennis players (female) with top five International players (female), in terms of points accumulated till March 2015

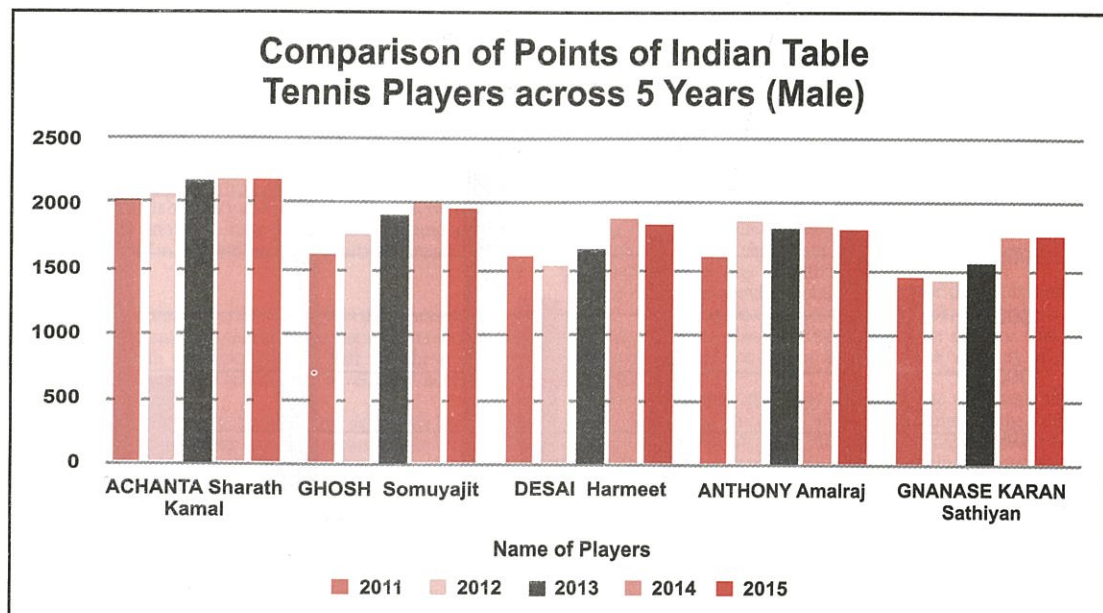


Fig.-4: Ipsitive comparison of top five Indian Table Tennis players (Male), in terms of points, during last five years.

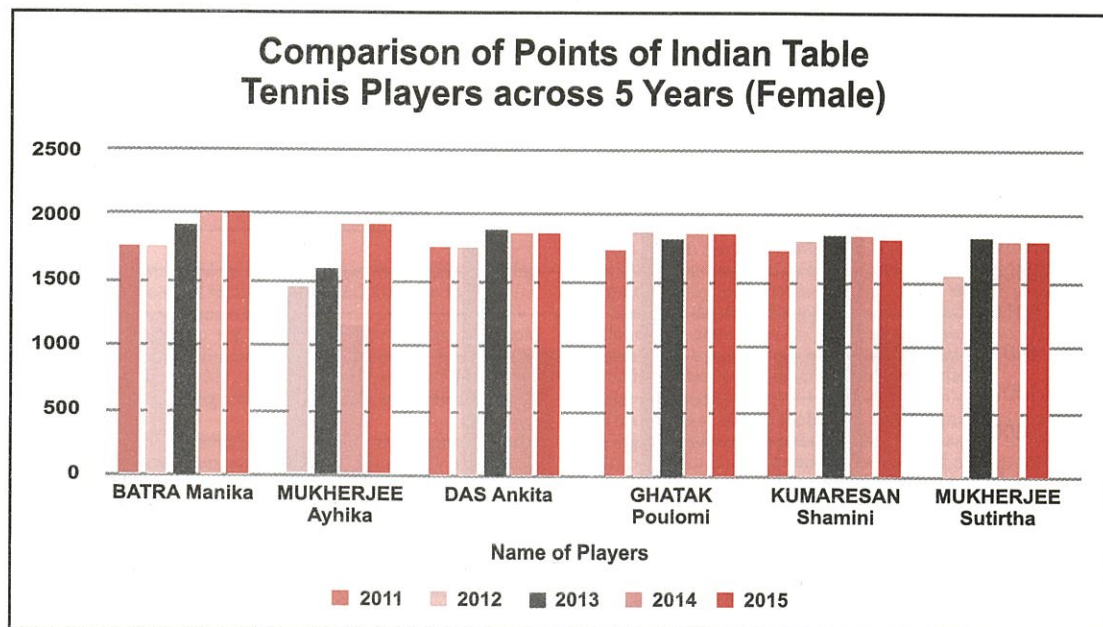


Fig.-5: Ipsitive comparison of top five Indian Table Tennis players (female), in terms of points, during last five years.

India holds 37th, 5th and 8th position in Olympic Games-2012, Commonwealth Games-2014 and Asian Games-2014 respectively. As per the World Championship 2014, India holds 33th rank in male category and 29th rank in female category. Performance of Indian Table Tennis players in different game formats like Olympic-2012, Commonwealth Games-2014 and Asian Games- 2014 is improving to achieve the Excellency. To find out more about their performance indicators, we looked for five years

CONCLUSION

comparison of points of top 5 Indian players, which shows a progressive growth in securing international position and ranking. Each and every player has improved his/her performance during last five years. Comparison with top five international players shows that Indian players are progressing to achieve the International standards in terms of points. As per qualification system of Olympic

Games-2016, 72 athletes per gender will qualify (28 athletes from ITTF world ranking with a maximum of 2 players per NOC, 40 athletes from Continental qualification, 2 athletes from Final World qualification Event, 1 athletes from Tripartite Commission Invitation Place and 1 athlete from Host NOC Direct Entry).

As per the ITTF World Ranking March-2015, Indian players are not holding world ranking under 28 positions. Therefore, as in Olympic Games-2012, at least two players would be selected from Continental events for Rio Olympic-2016 and on the basis of their performance in National Games 2015, there is a strong probability that they would definitely perform better in Rio 2016 Olympic.

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