

Class VII G.K.UPDATES 2026-27 HALF YEARLY

The **Commonwealth Games** have evolved from a small 11-country competition into a massive global sports event. Often called the "**Friendly Games**," this historical tournament is known for pioneering inclusivity and celebrating international community spirit.

Historical Facts About the Commonwealth Games

- **Original Name:** The event started in 1930 as the **British Empire Games** in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
- **Evolution of Names:** The name changed three times—to the *British Empire and Commonwealth Games* (1954), the *British Commonwealth Games* (1970), and finally the *Commonwealth Games* in 1978.
- **The Wartime Gap:** The Games have taken place every four years since 1930, except for a hiatus in **1942 and 1946** due to World War II.
- **Para-Sport Integration:** In 2002, the Manchester Games became the first multi-sport event in the world to fully integrate **athletes with a disability** into official medal events.
- **Historical Hosts:** Australia and Canada hold the record for hosting the Games the most times, having organized **five editions each**.

Facts : the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games

- **The Emergency Host:** **Glasgow, Scotland** stepped in to host the tournament after Australia's Victoria region unexpectedly withdrew due to skyrocketing costs.
- **The Official Motto:** The Games adopted the slogan "**Sport Is Just the Beginning**" to showcase the event's broader cultural and social impact.
- **The Quirky Mascot:** The official mascot, **Finnie**, is an anthropomorphic unicorn (Scotland's national animal) featuring an orange-and-white **traffic cone for a horn**—a nod to Glasgow's famous Duke of Wellington statue.
- **India's Top 4 Finish:** Despite losing high-yielding sports like wrestling, India finished **4th overall with 39 medals**, heavily anchored by a historic haul of 7 boxing gold medals.
- **Centenary Handover to India:** During the closing ceremony, the Commonwealth flag was officially handed over to begin preparations for the **2030 Centenary Games in Ahmedabad, India**.