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## TOKYO OLYMPICS AND PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN ATHLETES IN MULTIPLE SPORTS TOURNAMENTS

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### ABSTRACT

*The Tokyo 2020 Olympics, the world's largest athletic event, came to a close on Sunday, August 8th. In light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak, the Tokyo Olympics have been postponed until 2021 from its planned date of completion last year. It was the largest-ever delegation from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) that travelled to Tokyo for the games. It was envisioned that India will become a major sports power. The sportsmen proved that they aren't afraid to go all the way to the top in order to achieve their goals. "A journey of a thousand miles" is said to begin with "a single step," and that was the first step taken by our 126-person team as well. India's best-ever Olympics in Tokyo 2020 have injected a new spirit and optimism in the country's sports community with 7 medals (one gold, two silver, and four bronze) and a number of close finishes.*

**KEYWORDS:** *India In Olympics, Tokyo Olympics, India's Performance In Sports*

### INTRODUCTION

The medal count for Team India began on Day 1 with a silver medal for weightlifting's women's 49kg division winner Mirabai Chanu. After PV Sindhu, the Manipur-born athlete earned India's second Olympic silver medalist (2016 Rio). She is also the second weightlifter from India to win an Olympic gold, after Karnam Malleswari (2000 Sydney).

India's top medal contender, Pusarla Venkata Sindhu, delivered on her expectations. PV Sindhu, the current BWF World Champion, finished third in Tokyo 2020. The 7th-seeded badminton player is just the second Indian to win two Olympic medals, after Sushil Kumar (2008 and 2012).

At the Tokyo Olympics, India picked up a third medal thanks to Lovlina Borgohain. In her debut Olympiad, the Assamese-born athlete came away with a medal. As a result, she joined Vijender Singh and MC Mary Kom as the only Indian boxers to earn an Olympic gold.

**TABLE 1 : INDIA'S PERFORMANCE IN ASSORTED TOURNAMENTS**

Name	Medal	Event	Sport	Date
Neeraj Chopra	1 Gold	Men's javelin throw	Athletics	7 August
Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	2 Silver	Women's 49 kg	Weightlifting	24 July
Ravi Kumar Dahiya	2 Silver	Men's freestyle 57 kg	Wrestling	5 August
P. V. Sindhu	3 Bronze	Women's singles	Badminton	1 August
Lovlina Borgohain	3 Bronze	Women's welterweight	Boxing	4 August
India men's national field hockey team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dilpreet Singh</li> <li>• Rupinder Pal Singh</li> <li>• Surender Kumar</li> <li>• Manpreet Singh (C)</li> <li>• Hardik Singh</li> <li>• Gurjant Singh</li> <li>• Simranjeet Singh</li> <li>• Mandeep Singh</li> <li>• Harmanpreet Singh</li> <li>• Lalit Upadhyay</li> <li>• P. R. Sreejesh</li> <li>• Sumit</li> <li>• Nilakanta Sharma</li> <li>• Shamsher Singh</li> <li>• Varun Kumar</li> <li>• Birendra Lakra</li> <li>• Amit Rohidas</li> <li>• Vivek Prasad</li> </ul>	3 Bronze	Men's tournament	Field hockey	5 August
Bajrang Punia	3 Bronze	Men's freestyle 65 kg	Wrestling	7 August

After 41 years, India's men's hockey team defeated Germany and took home the bronze medal. Even now, India still leads the world in Olympic field hockey medals won. This victory has given new life to an age-old Indian pastime.

India's fifth medal was earned by wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya. The Harayan-born 23-year-old made one of the most impressive comebacks in men's 57kg freestyle wrestling history. He was the second Indian wrestler to earn an Olympic silver medal, after Sushil Kumar (2012 London).

Bajrang Punia's bronze medal in men's 65kg freestyle wrestling matched India's greatest Olympic result, increasing the country's medal total to six. The wrestler who will carry India's

flag in the closing ceremony of the 2020 Summer Olympics is the sixth wrestler from India to win an Olympic medal.

Not to be outdone, Neeraj Chopra won the Olympic Gold Medal on the last day of competition for India. In the Javelin Throw, the 23-year-old became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic gold medal in track and field, the original form of Athletics. His gold in Shooting makes him Team India's second ever individual Olympian following Abhinav Bindra's in 2008 Beijing. India won seven medals in total with a personal best javelin throw of 87.58 metres (300 feet). This man has inspired hope in 1.3 billion people across the world.



Figure 1 : Neeraj Chopra, The Gold Medalist

For India, the Olympics in Tokyo were filled with highs and lows, as well as conflicting emotions. Optimists predicted that India would bring home a record-breaking number of double-digit medals at the Olympics in Tokyo, but it only managed to bring home seven. Despite having a population of over 1.2 billion people, India has a poor track record of winning Olympic medals. No city, including Tokyo, was exempt from this rule. Investigate some of the causes behind this.

Aquatics, Athletics, and Cycling took home 49, 48, and 22 gold medals each in the Tokyo Olympics, yet the infrastructure for these three sports is in terrible shape. In addition, participation in these sports is very low. The Tokyo Olympics included a total of 33 sports, with India taking part in only 20 of them. In 33% of sports, we're not even trying to win.



Figure 2 : Indian Sportspersons at Olympics

India's delegation to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games set a new record, exceeding that of the previous Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. There were originally 119 competitors in the delegation, but late additions Sumit Nagal (tennis) and Diksha Dagar (golf) boosted that number to 121 according to the International Olympic Committee.

Notably, a maximum of 16 players were permitted for a hockey match, but Indian teams additionally employed two players from their reserves, and the competition included 18 players in all. Some of the initial 119 members of the athletics team did not compete in any of the relay events. As a result, there are about 120 people who have represented India in different events.

The Games got off to a strong start for India, with weightlifter Mirabai Chanu taking home silver on the opening day of competition, and wrestler Bajrang Punia and javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra (both with a gold) closing out the competition and helping the nation surpass its previous medal total.

Medal winners will be remembered for a long time, but all athletes who competed in the Olympics should be recognised and their accomplishments documented. People often say that going to the Olympics is a huge accomplishment, and that is particularly true if the Games are in a year like 2021. Pandemic delays posed unique challenges for all athletes who participated in the Games.

The historic gold medal won by India's Neeraj Chopra in the men's javelin event on Saturday in Tokyo brought an end to the country's remarkable Olympic run.

It was India's first gold medal in a track and field event since independence from the United Kingdom, and it helped cement the country's best-ever showing at the Games, with a total of seven medals earned.



Figure 3 : India in Olympics

An airport crowd greeted Chopra as he touched down in New Delhi, India's capital, on Monday afternoon, eager to see their new national hero. Large crowd videos around the athlete have come to represent what China's second-largest population's triumph means for the globe.

The Chief Minister of Haryana, where Chopra comes from, told reporters at a press conference on Saturday that "the Haryana lad has made his imprint."

The record medal haul for India comes at a time when the country is still recovering from the second wave of the coronavirus epidemic that devastated the country. According to Johns Hopkins University statistics, the nation has seen more than 428,000 Covid-19 fatalities and over 32 million infections, putting institutions at risk of closure and taxing the healthcare system to breaking point.

Neeraj Chopra's gold medal in the men's javelin throw on the final day of the Tokyo Olympics brought an end to India's Olympic campaign. It was the first athletics medal for independent India, and it was a gold one at that. When Neeraj threw the spear in Tokyo's Olympic Stadium, India had saved its best for last, solidifying his position in the country's sports history. Indian athletes finished the Tokyo Olympics with a total of seven medals: one gold, two silver, and four bronze. To top it all off, India won more medals in Tokyo than it did in London in 2012.

In the archery competition, India had a slew of medal hopefuls, but the archery team fell short and had to return home India empty-handed. The Indian archery team faced off against Korea in the quarterfinals of the mixed archery competition. India was humiliated by a 2-6 result. They

would have at least earned a Bronze medal with a victory here. When it came to the women's archery event, Deepika was swept by world record holder An San, who was the #1 seed. Against Takaharu Furukawa, Atanu Das lost 6-4 in the men's individual round of 16. India's men's archery team was eliminated after a 2-6 defeat against Korea in the quarterfinals. In a contest, archer Atanu Das beat a Korean with ease. In addition to his two Olympic gold medals, Oh Jin-Hyek has four World Championship golds, three World Cup titles, and two Asian Games golds under his belt!

A new Asian record was established by India's men's 4x400-meter relay team. Amoj Jacob, Noah Nirmal Tom, Muhammad Anas, and Arokia Rajiv finished fourth in Group B with a time of 3:00.25. Instead of being in the finals, India was eliminated from the competition after finishing ninth in their heat. Only the next two teams in each Heat advance to the next round. While playing badminton, Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty battled valiantly to defeat Taiwan's Lee Yang and Wang Chin-lin, the eventual gold medalists, but ultimately failed to go further in the competition.

India brought the biggest table tennis delegation in history to Tokyo, with two players participating in men's and women's singles and a mixed doubles team. Manika was the first Indian woman to win two singles matches and go to the Round of 32 in the Olympics. To advance to the R64, Sutirtha Mukherjee defeated her higher-ranked Swedish opponent from a 3-1 deficit. This is the first time in Olympic history that both female Indian paddlers have won a match. Against eventual gold medalist MA Long of China in the round of 32 of the men's singles competition, Sharath Kamal of India beat Tiago Apolonia. Tennis player Sumit Nagal surprised top-ranked Denis Istomin by entering late, while sailing and equestrian saw India compete for the first time.

## CONCLUSION

As the Tokyo Olympics come to a close, it's a good time to take stock. In the lead-up to the Games, many Indians anticipated that this would be India's greatest ever Olympics in terms of medal haul. In terms of medals, the 2012 London Olympics were our most successful to date. We came home with six gold, two silver, and four bronze. We had previously won six medals, but this time we were able to beat that total. In contrast, India saved its finest performance until last. Neeraj Chopra and Bajrang Punia added two more medals to India's five-medal haul on the final day of the world tournament.

India's 21-year medal drought in weightlifting came to an end when Mirabai Chanu won silver in the 49kg division at the Olympics. With 202 kilos of total weight lifted (87 kilogrammes + 115 kilogrammes), the 26-year-old broke Olympic bronze medalist Karnam Malleswari's record. With a mix of hope, sorrow, nostalgia, glory, and near-misses between Chanu's silver and Chopra's gold, this film is sure to inspire at least some Indians, if not the whole population. This 124-member team included world champions, world cup winners, world no. 1s, rising stars, and debutants in sports that most of India had never heard of.

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