

## Topic: 2016 Summer Olympics

The **2016 Summer Olympics**, officially known as the **Games of the XXXI Olympiad** and commonly known as **Rio 2016**, is a major international multi-sport event being held in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, from **5 August to 21 August 2016**. More than **11,000 athletes** from **207 National Olympic Committees**, including first time entrants Kosovo, South Sudan, and the Refugee Olympic Team, are taking part. With **306 sets of medals**, the games features **28 Olympic sports**, including **rugby sevens and golf**, which were added to the Olympic program in 2009. These sporting events are taking place at **33 venues** in the host city, and at five in São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Salvador, Brasília and Manaus. These are the first Summer Olympic Games under the **IOC presidency of Thomas Bach**. The host city Rio de Janeiro was announced at the **121st IOC Session in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 2 October 2009**. **Rio became the first South American city** to host the Summer Olympics. These are the first games to be held in a Portuguese-speaking country, the first to be held entirely in winter, the first since 1968 to be held in Latin America, and the first since 2000 to be held in the Southern Hemisphere.

### Highs and Lows:

For the last 10 days, India has waited for its first medal at the Rio 2016 Olympics but its athletes have failed to finish on the podium. Many have come agonisingly close to winning one and many have had shock exits from early stages. With each passing day, the news is become more depressing. India now has only six days left to win that elusive medal from these Games, otherwise, for the first time since **1992, it will return medal-less**. The high of London four years ago is turning into disaster in Rio de Janeiro. The biggest disappointment was the shooters returning without a medal with **Abhinav Bindra managing the best position among all – fourth**. **Jitu Rai, a big medal hope, failed** to finish on the podium in 10m air pistol while he failed to qualify for the final of 50m air pistol, his pet event. **Saina Nehwal's exit from the group stages came as the biggest shock** and while **hockey** was not considered a medal hope, a **semi-final finish** was realistic. The Rio Games can be called a failure for India.

Now India has a few athletes left to compete and though the medal hopes are still alive, they are very bleak. **Kidambi Srikanth** will play the quarter-final of **men's singles in badminton** but he faces **Lin Dan, the two-time defending champion**. India's last medal hopes lie on the wrestler with **Yogeshwar Dutt leading the charge**. With him is the controversy ridden Narsingh Yadav and a dark horse in 57kg Sandeep Tomar will also be in medal contention. In the women's category, India's three wrestlers, **Vinesh Phogat, Babita Kumari and Sakshi Malik will open their campaign** two days from Tuesday. A medal from them will be a pleasant surprise, though the Indian expectations have not come true. In athletics, we have a few athletes left but none has the class to medal at the Olympics. The women's and men's 4x100m relay team will take part on the second last day of Olympics. In the men's 50km walk, we have two participants but it would be a great achievement if they can manage a top-10 finish. In men's marathon, India has three participants who will look to make a mark. Wrestling remains the biggest medal hope for India and while badminton women's singles player PV Sindhu stayed alive with the win in the pre-quarters.

Topic  
Introduction

India **can raise a toast, however**, to 22-year-old gymnast **Dipa Karmakar** who finished **fourth** in the vault final with a score of 15.006 - well past her previous best - **and missed a bronze medal by 0.150 points**. Dipa was at second place after her second attempt at the Produnova but slipped to fourth after the final contestant, American Simone Biles, put in an outstanding performance to win gold with a score of 15.966.

**Reasons** for India's under-performance in Rio:

- Lack of funding equivalent to that by other countries that are consistently getting more medals.
- A culture that doesn't always define sporting success as one of the most desirable accomplishments for their children.
- Inability to get India's poor into elite sporting pathways.
- Continued corruption and government interference in the Indian sporting system.
- Lack of long term planning for Olympic success, especially following the 2010 Commonwealth Games which would have been a late starting point for long term 2016 planning.

**Top 3 Countries securing medals:**

| Country       | Gold | Silver | Bronze | TOTAL |
|---------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| USA           | 26   | 23     | 26     | 75    |
| Great Britain | 16   | 17     | 8      | 41    |
| China         | 15   | 14     | 17     | 46    |

**Read further:**

<http://indianexpress.com/sports/rio-2016-olympics/india-still-medal-hopes-chances-abhinav-bindra-hockey-badminton-2963152/>

<http://indianexpress.com/sports/rio-2016-olympics/india-olympics-medals-results-day-score-performance-2967577/>

<http://indianexpress.com/sports/rio-2016-olympics/india-medal-predictions-number-total-players-tennis-wrestling-badminton-2951561/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/rio-olympics-2016-will-the-indian-performance-reflect-the-improved-fortunes/article8943912.ece>