

# BOXING

## XIX COMMONWEALTH GAMES, NEW DELHI (OCTOBER 03-14, 2010)

The Indian pugilists cashed greatly on the impetus provided by the bronze medal winning performance by Vijender Singh at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, by performing exceptionally in the international arena. Ever since the Beijing Olympics the performance of the Indian boxers has had an upward graph, which was clearly visible in the 2010 Commonwealth Games. India hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games which were held in Delhi. India won 101 medals in total, including 38 Gold medals, enabling it to finish the Games at second position behind Australia. An unprecedented haul of three gold and four bronze medals in boxing at the Games, was a significant contribution to Indian overall medal tally.

Suranjay Singh (52kg), Manoj Kumar (64kg) and Paramjeet Samota (+91kg) were the gold-medallists for India, while star attraction Vijender Singh (75kg), Amandeep Singh (49kg), Jai Bhagwan (60kg) and Dilbag Singh (69kg) had to be content with bronze medals after losing in the semi finals. This was India's best-ever medal haul at the Games, two better than the previous edition in Melbourne where the country fetched just one gold.

## XVI ASIAN GAMES AT GUANGZHOU, CHINA NOVEMBER 12-27, 2010

The power pack performance of Indian boxers at Asian games was better than any of their prior efforts. Indian boxers clinched two gold, three silver and two bronze medals at the Asiad. In the Women's discipline which was making its debut at the Asian Games, Indian boxers secured two bronze medals as well.

This was also the first time that Indian boxers were able to win greater than a single gold medal in Asian games. This is the best ever performance by Indians beating earlier in 1984 Asian Games held in Seoul when they collected four silver and five bronze medals. The gold medals by Vijender and Vikas were first after Dinko Singh's victory in 1998. Though it will be more special for Vikas all of 18 years old winning a gold at international level. This time round there were 5 Indian boxers in final - citing the phenomenal rise of Indian boxing. The other boxers who won bronze were Suranjay Singh, Paramjeet Samota, Mary Kom and Kavita Goyat.

WOMEN'S YOUTH WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT ANTALYA, TURKEY  
(APRIL 21 TO MAY 01, 2011)

Indian Junior and Women boxers created history at Antalya by their tremendous grit, determination and courage which they displayed in full measure at the inaugural edition of AIBA Women's Youth and Junior World Championships. Four Indian women pugilists etched their names with golden letters in the history of Indian Boxing by becoming champions in Antalya, Turkey. Sarjubala Devi (48kg) and Minu Basumatary (64kg) in the Youth Championship along with Lalenkawli (46kg) and Nikhat Zareen (50kg) in the Junior Championships defeated their opponents today to claim the title in their respective weight category. Pwilao Basumatary (54kg) and Poonam Chahal (60kg), who lost their semi-finals bouts, had to settle for a bronze medal. Lalfakzuali in the light bantamweight category, of the Junior championship, unfortunately had to face defeat in the finals but took home silver medal for her outstanding performance in the tournament.

It was a momentous feat achieved by young Indian glove women, and it further cemented India as a force to be reckoned with in the international world of women's Boxing.

JUNIOR WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN (JULY  
20-31, 2011)

The year 2011 also witnessed Indian Junior Boxers make head way in the International arena. Naveen Kumar (50kg) and Sandeep Kumar (57kg) put up a sterling show at the 2011 AIBA Junior World Boxing Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan. Naveen brilliant run at the Junior World Championships came to an end one step short of winning the title. The 14 year old had to settle for silver medal, but gave a brilliant account of his boxing skills in the tournament. Sandeep Kumar (57kg) had to make do with a bronze medal performance after losing out in the semi-finals.

ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA (AUGUST 03-13,  
2011)

The Indian contingent at the 2011 ASBC Asian Boxing Championships returned home with a admirable performance. The Indian boxers bagged three medal, one silver medal and two bronze medals from the continental championships. 2010 Commonwealth Games bronze-medallist Amandeep Singh (49kg) battled well to make it to the finals of the event, but in the end content with a silver medal. 2010 Commonwealth Champion Paramjeet Samota (91kg) and 2008 Commonwealth Youth Games gold medallist Balwinder Beniwal (64kg) had to settle for a bronze medal finish after losing in the round of four in their respective weight category.

### COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES AT ISLE OF MAN, UNITED KINGDOM

(SEPTEMBER 07-13, 2011)

Two young Indian pugilists, Rahul Poonia and Surender Singh, made their make at the 2011 Commonwealth Youth Games. Poonia won silver in light flyweight and Singh won bronze in middleweight.

### WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT BAKU, AZERBAIJAN (SEPTEMBER 22 TO OCTOBER 10, 2011)

Indian Boxers created history at the AIBA World Boxing Championships at Baku by putting up sterling performances against world class boxers and ensuring that 4 Indians were through to the London Olympics 2012. Jai Bhagwan (60 kgs) and Vikas Krishan (69 kgs) Devendro Singh (49 kgs) and Manoj Kumar (64 kgs) all cemented their spot at the 2012 London Olympics. The Indian Challenge at the 2011 AIBA World Championships came to an end with Asian games gold medallist Vikas Krishan (69kg) suffering a defeat in the semi-finals of the tournament. The 19 year equalled, but could not go past Beijing Olympics bronze medallist Vijender Singh's feat of bagging a bronze at the Milan World Championships in 2009. But it was a stunning performance by the teenage prodigy who made all the way to the semi-finals in his very first senior world championship and also qualified for the London Olympics in the process.

The Indian team displayed great talent and potential putting exceptional performances against world class boxers at the AIBA World Boxing Championships. The tournament witnessed 4 Indian boxer make it to the quarter-final round and qualifying for the 2012 London Games. Vikas Krishan (69 kg), Jai Bhagwan (60 kg), Manoj Kumar (64 kg) and Devendro Singh (49kg) all sealed Olympic berths. This will be India's best performance in any World Championships or Olympic qualifiers. At the Chicago world Championships Antharesh Lakra was the only one to qualify for Being Olympics.

### ASIAN WOMEN'S BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS AT ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

(MARCH 16-26, 2012)

Indian boxers were resplendent in their White Track Suits with MONNET emblazoned on them, created a sensation at the 6th Asian Women's Boxing Championships at Ulaanbaatar by winning 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals thereby also getting the Runners Up Trophy.

Five time world champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) and four time Asian Champion L Sarita Devi (60kg) reasserted their names as legends of the game by winning the championship title at the Asian women Boxing Championships in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The veterans of the sport added another feather to their heavily decorated caps by winning the gold medal at sixth edition of the tournament. While Mary won her fourth gold, Sarita bagged her fifth gold to become the only women boxer to have won five consecutive gold medals at the continental championships. Pinky

Jangra (48kg), Sonia Lather (54kg), Monica Saun (64kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) lost in the finals and had to settle with a silver medal winning performance. But India return from the championship with 2 gold medals, 4 silver medals and 2 bronze medals, with three medals (two gold and one silver) having come in the Olympic weight categories – A monumental feat achieved by these Indian glove women, which further cements India position as a force to be reckoned with in the world of women's Boxing.

**ASIAN OLYMPIC QUALIFYING BOXING TOURNAMENT AT ASTANA,  
KAZAKHSTAN (APRIL 04-13, 2012)**

Indian pugilists scripted a new chapter in the country's boxing history with seven boxers– the largest number ever, qualifying for the Olympics. Out of the seven three qualifications were secured at the Asian Olympic qualifiers – Beijing Olympics bronze medallist Vijender Singh (75kg), 2010 Youth Olympics silver medallist Shiva Thapa (56kg) and 2010 Youth Asian Championship silver medallist Sumit Sangwan (81kg) cemented their place at the London Olympiad with spectacular performances in the tournament. Thapa and Sangwan, the youngest two of the Indian squad, did not just win a quota place but went on to claim the title in their weight divisions. While Shiva devoured 2010 Asian Games bronze medallist Wessam Salamana of Syria with some quality boxing, Sumit overpowered another bronze medal winner at the 2010 Asian Games Jakhon Qurbanov of Tajikistan.

India returned from the championship with two gold medals and three bronze medals. Vijender, who booked his ticket to the London Games after having gotten rid of 2011 Asian Championship silver medallist Chuluuntumur Tumurkhyag of Mongolia in the quarter-finals, lost in the semi-finals to Nursahat Pazziyev of Turkmenistan and had to settle for a bronze medal finish. 2010 Asian Games silver medallist Manpreet Singh (91kg) and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Paramjeet Samota (+91kg) also had to be content with a bronze medal after losing out in the semi-finals.

**WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS & 1<sup>ST</sup> OLYMPIC QUALIFYING  
TOURNAMENT-2012 LONDON OLYMPIC AT QINHUANGDAO, CHINA FROM MAY  
09-20, 2012**

The Indian women's boxing team returned from the seventh edition of the AIBA World Women's Boxing Championships at Qinhuangdao with one medal and one Olympic qualification. However the performance of the Indian pugilists at the Championships was above par and will be instrumental in the grand scheme of the sport in India. Indian women showed great talent and played well enough, but were unable to make a deep run in the tournament as they faced steep competition in their side of the draw. All Our boxers did exceedingly well,

unfortunately many of them lost to eventual medallist and couple of them to the gold medallist in their weight divisions. All in all the performance was outstanding; maybe if the draw had been a bit easier we could have won another three to four medals. Considering their last performance at the Barbados World Championship the boxers have improved a lot, which was evident in the way the girls fought against top class contenders.

A monumental achievement for Indian was when Mary Kom qualified for London Olympics 2012 in 51 kgs. The Olympic qualification was a significant accomplishment and the effects it will have on the future of women's boxing in India. The fact that MC Mary Kom represented the country at the biggest sporting arena in the world, was an eye opener for the all the women boxers in India. It is a big boost for the Indian women who wish to and have taken of up boxing as a profession; it will give them the belief and confidence that they are capable of making it big. Asian Championship bronze medallist Kavita Chahal (+81kg) was the lone Indian woman boxer to clinch a medal at the World Championships. The 27 year old had to settle for a bronze medal finish after losing out to Kazakhstan's Yuldus Mamatkulova (9:15) in the semis.

OLYMPIC GAMES AT LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM (JULY 29 TO AUGUST 12,  
2012)

MC Mary Kom (51kg) scaled new heights at the games of the XXX Olympiad in London by becoming the first Indian woman boxer to win an Olympic medal. The 29 year old, mother of two, bagged a bronze medal in the fly weight division of the sport, which made its Olympic debut this year. A true legend, the 5 times World Champion's achievement is a historic milestone, one that is bound to inspire future generations of athletes. In the men's discipline at the mega event, although medals eluded the team, Indian boxers put up a spirited performance against top class opposition. While some lost out with very narrow margins, few were unlucky not to get close decisions in their favour. Seven Indian boxers – L Devendro Singh (49kg), Shiva Thapa (56kg), Jai Bhagwan (60kg), Manoj Kumar (64kg), Vikas Krishan (69kg), Vijender Singh (75kg) and Sumit Sangwan (81kg) -- qualified for the Games but could not translate performances into rewards. Although the Indian Boxing Contingent bagged only one medal, experts believe the performance of the Indian pugilists at the London games was up to their potential and the setback have only spurred them on to do better.