

## DESH APNAYEN NEWSLETTER

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### From the Editor's desk

Dear readers,

We are on the verge of the Olympic Games, which will be held from 5th to 20th August in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Rio will become the first South American city to host the Summer Olympics. Since the first modern Olympics were held 120 years ago, they have continued to be staged over every four years with the exception of 1940 and 1944 due to World War II. In these two weeks, 10,500 athletes will participate in over 306 events and 28 sports.

As you would have noticed, our last two blogs were dedicated to introducing members of the Indian Olympic contingent. If you haven't read them yet, please read them [here](#) and [here](#). We promise you won't be disappointed!



Source:

[www.mashable.com](http://www.mashable.com)

Out of all the global sporting events, the Olympics have a special place in our history, hearts and minds. It is about teamwork, courage, participation and national pride. More than anything, it is about fighting hard till the end.

Sports and citizenship are linked in more ways than one. At the root, they are made possible because of hard work, team-work and determination. The journey we take and the legacy we leave behind are their rewards.

Let's Desh Apnayen by celebrating our athletes this month and the next.

## Celebrating the Olympics online

Google does a great job of creating wonderful doodles to celebrate remarkable national and global events. Here are some great doodles the company has produced to celebrate the last few Olympics. Take a look and enjoy!

1. A doodle celebrating the first modern Olympic games in Athens in the year 1896.



2. Brazil wins the bid to host the 2016 Olympics Doodle from: October 2, 2009



3. The 2008 Beijing Olympics opening ceremony Doodle from: August 8, 2008



4. A doodle from the London Olympics, 2012 Doodle from: June 2012



5. A doodle from the Athens Olympic games, 2004



6. A doodle from the Olympics in Sydney, 2000



## India and the Olympics

We have had a brief romance with the Olympics. While our current record is upsetting, the only way now is upward and onward. Let's take a look back at our major achievements in the game.

### **HOCKEY:**

India has a painfully glorious past in Olympic hockey. India has won eight gold medals at the Olympics, between 1928 and 1980. After that it has been a dry spell.

- a. 1928: This is the first time India won the gold at the Olympics, after which we went on to win the next six consecutive Olympic golds. The Indian team won the gold by defeating Holland.
- b. 1932: India defended their gold medal, this time against USA.
- c. 1936: India completed its hat-trick at Berlin.
- d. 1940: The Olympic Games that were to be held in Tokyo that year, and later moved to Helsinki, were suspended indefinitely following the outbreak of World War II.
- e. 1948: India beat Great Britain 4-0 in the final of the London Olympics. From the opening whistle, India gave the spectators in the stadium an exhibition of intelligent and fast play.
- f. 1952: India men's hockey team once again showed the world why they are supreme by outclassing Holland in the finals. Out of six goals in the finals, Balbir Singh scored 5.
- g. 1956: India defeated Pakistan 1-0 in the finals of the Melbourne Olympics and secured their sixth consecutive title.
- h. 1960: Only men competed in field hockey at the Rome Olympic Games. Pakistan won the gold medal, defeating India in the final and ending India's run of six successive gold medals. Spain won the bronze medal.
- i. 1964: India wrested back the Hockey crown from Pakistan in a thrilling game. This was the seventh gold for the Indian men's hockey team at the Olympics.

## India and the Olympics

### **SHOOTING:**

- a. Abhinav Bindra became our first individual gold medalist in the Men's 10m Air Rifle event in Beijing, 2008.
- b. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won a silver medal in Trap in Athens, 2004.
- c. Vijay Kumar won a silver medal in the Men's 25 Rapid Fire Pistol event in London, 2012.
- d. Gagan Narang won a bronze medal in the Men's 10m Air Rifle event in London, 2012.

### **BADMINTON AND TENNIS:**

- a. Leander Paes won a bronze medal in Tennis Men's Singles in the 1996 Olympics in the USA.
- b. Saina Nehwal won a bronze medal in Badminton Women's Singles in the 2012 London Olympics.

### **BOXING, WRESTLING AND WEIGHT LIFTING**

- a. Karnam Malleshwari won a silver medal in the 69kg Weightlifting event in Sydney, 2000.
- b. Mary Kom and Yogeshwar Dutt won the Bronze Medals in Boxing and Wrestling respectively at London 2012.
- c. Sushil Kumar won the silver medal in Men's 66kg Freestyle at London, 2012.



## Contributions from our partner schools:

The children, teachers and staff of Pawar Public School in Chandivali were involved in some wonderful activities the last month, all inspired from Desh Apnayen's Citizenship Club (read more about it here).

Here are some snippets of these activities.

### DONATION FOR A CAUSE:

Proceeds from the annual fun fair of the school were used to purchase and donate 1000 books to Raan Pakhre Aashram Shala in Pen near Alibagh. It is commendable that books were handpicked by the librarians, especially since they are a route to empowerment.



माणसानं कसं अक्षरासारखं असावं  
जगण्याच्या पानावरती अलगद जाऊन बसावं  
शब्दासाठी ओळी-ओळीनं अर्थासारखं नाचावं  
एका अक्षराने दुसऱ्याला आनंदाने वाचावं.  
हार्दिक शुभेच्छा !  
*Raankhosh*  
पवार पब्लिक स्कूल, शिक्षकपालक संघ



**SMALL HANDS, BIG MIRACLES: PROVIDING WATER WHERE NEEDED:**

The school joined hands with two very perceptive and benignant citizens of Mumbai, Mr. Obaid and Mr. Rooney to help the villagers of Vashala Village, near Shahapur in Thane District.

Though Shahapur is close to four lakes (and Vashala houses only 40 families), all the lake water is diverted to meet the demands of Mumbai, leaving these villagers with almost nothing. The only source of water for these 40 families at Vashala are the Government water tankers that make an appearance once in 6 days.

The school decided to reach out to these 40 families by distributing part of the water contributed by the students, parents and teachers. The same was dispatched to the villagers of Sahapur.

This was a very small gesture to tell the villagers that they are not alone and our little hands are making a genuine and sincere effort to reach out to them.







To contribute to this section, please email Komal Shah on [komal@deshapnayen.org](mailto:komal@deshapnayen.org).



## Fun and games

Draw and colour the logo for the Rio Olympics and send it to us! We will feature the best ones on our social media pages.

Send us your drawings on [komal@deshapnayen.org](mailto:komal@deshapnayen.org)

### The Olympic Host City Logo Quiz:

Look at the images below and identify the host cities that these logos belong to.

