



India and Olympism

"Play the game in the spirit of the game."

Jawaharlal Nehru

INDIA

3,280,483 square kilometres.

650 million inhabitants (approx. in 1975).

INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION (IOA)

Founded in 1927.

President in office : Air Chief Marshal O.P. Mehra *.

Secretary-General in Office : Air Vice Marshal C.L. Mehta *.

Address : National Stadium, India Gate, New Delhi, 110 001, India.

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* See biographical notes

Role of the IOA

The Indian Olympic Association is responsible for the preparation and participation of competitors in the Olympic Games as well as in Regional events like Commonwealth and Asian Games. There is a separate federation at national level in each game/sport which assists the Indian Olympic Association and preparation of sportsmen. The selection of sportsmen is generally carried out on the basis of performance at national level. However, at times, special selection trials are also held to choose the competitors for participation in the Olympic Games and other international events. After initial selection, the competitors are required to attend training camps. The national federations are assisted by the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala, which provides intensive training for athletes.

The selected competitors are then recommended by the national federations to the IOA for official sponsorship for participation in the Olympic Games. At present 19 national federations (including the Services Sports Control Board and the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India) are affiliated to the IOA.

A special feature of the Indian Olympic Association is that, in addition to the national federation for each sport, there are State Olympic Associations in various States in the country. The State bodies controlling the different sports are affiliated to the national federations and to the State Olympic Associations.

The aim of the State Olympic Associations is to ensure the promotion of sports in their respective States, in

conjunction with the State bodies for the different games and sports. The overall responsibility for participation in the Olympic Games rests with the Indian Olympic Association. At present 20 State Olympic Associations are affiliated to the IOA. The other responsibilities undertaken by the IOA are as follows :

1. Deciding the organisation of National Games.
2. Maintaining liaison between the Government of India and member federations or associations.
3. Protecting the amateur status of sportsmen.
4. Promoting and developing the Olympic movement.

It was towards the end of 1919 that Sir Dorabji Tata *, who was later to become the first president, first sowed the seeds of the future Indian Olympic Association which was established in 1927.

Though no Olympic body had yet been formed in India, Sir Tata managed to send a token team of four athletes and two wrestlers to the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp. During that time, this benefactor was elected member of the International Olympic Committee for India and thus became the first representative of his country within that body. Upon his return to India, Sir Tata, with the help of Dr. A.G. Noehren, then Director of the YMCA in India, began to search throughout India for new talent in athletics. This aroused national interest in athletics and helped to promote, control and further the organisation of athletic meetings in all States and provinces in India.

In February 1924, an inter-state athletics meet was organised in Delhi with the result that an eight-member team was sent to participate in the Olympic Games in Paris later the same year.

In 1927, the Indian Olympic Association was formed with Sir Dorabji Tata I as its



*Sir Dorabji
J. Tata*



*Prof. Guru
Dutt Sondhi*



*Raja Bhalindra
Singh*



*Mr. Ashwini
Kumar*

IOC Members in India

1. Sir Dorabji J. Tata*, from 1920 to 1931.
2. Prof. Guru Dutt Sondhi *, from 1932 to 1966, member of the Executive Board from 1961 to 1965.
3. Raja Bhalindra Singh *, since 1947.
4. Mr. Ashwini Kumar *, since 1973.

Successive Presidents of the IOA

1927-1928 : Sir Dorabji J. Tata *

1928-1938 : Maharaja Bhupindra Singh of Patiala *

1938-1960 : Maharaja Yadavendra Singh of Patiala *

1960-1975 : Raja Bhalindra Singh *

Since 1976 : Air Chief Marshal O.P. Mehra *



*Air Chief Marshal
O. P. Mehra*



*Air Chief Marshal
C. L. Mehta*

first President and Dr. Noehren as Secretary. They held these two offices until 1928 when they were subsequently replaced by Maharaja Bhupindra Singh of Patiala *, (1928-1938) and Prof. Guru Dutt Sondhi * (1928-1952) respectively. Sir Dorabji Tata * continued as IOC member in India until his death in 1931.

In 1932, after the demise of Sir Dorabji Tata*, Prof. Guru Dutt Sondhi*, who was also the Indian representative within the International Amateur Athletic Federation, assumed his responsibilities.

By 1927, the IOA decided to hold regular inter-State games and since then national championships in all events have been held in various states of India.

Secretaries of the IOA

1927-1928 : Dr. A.G. Noehren.

1928-1952 : Prof. Guru Dutt Sondhi *.

1952-1956 : Prof. Moinul Haq.

1956-1960 : Mr. Ashwini Kumar *.

1960-1970 : Mr. Pankaj Gupta.

1970-1974 : Mr. Ashwini Kumar *.

1974-1975 : Mr. J.C. Paliwal.

Since 1976 : Air Vice Marshal C.L. Mehta *.



1936 - Berlin ; the Indian delegation.

INDIA AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- **Date of first participation :**

1900, Paris.

Women athletes were included for the first time in the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952.

The symbolic participation of one skier in the Winter Games in 1964 and 1968 should be mentioned.

- **Olympic performances**

In 1900, Norman D. Pritchard, probably an Anglo-Indian, who was living in England at the time, represented India, and came second in both the 200 m. sprint and the 200 m. hurdles.

The IOA was formed in 1927, and thus it was only in 1928 in Amsterdam that India first participated officially in the Olympic Games. This event was marked by the Indian hockey team who won the first gold medal for their country.

In 1952, K.D. Jadav won a bronze medal in wrestling at the Olympic Games in Helsinki.

During the 1956 Games in Melbourne, India met Pakistan for the first time in the hockey final and won by one goal to nil.

India was placed quite respectably in the football tournament and qualified for the final rounds. However, they were beaten into fourth place by Bulgaria.

At the *Olympic Games in Rome 1960*, the Indian hockey team was finally beaten by their traditional rival, Pakistan, who won by one goal, thus ending India's 32-year monopoly of the game.

In athletics, the flying Sikh, Milkha Singh, who was placed 4th in the 110 m. hurdles, created a new record for Asian athletes by finishing the race in 14.6 seconds.

India regained her reputation in hockey by wresting the title from Pakistan in the *1964 Olympics in Tokyo*. The other performance worthy of note was also during the 1964 Olympics when Gurbachan Singh, who competed in the 110 m. hurdles final, came 5th in a time of 14 seconds. In the *Munich Olympics* held in 1972, India was able to secure a bronze medal only in hockey.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the great statesman, but also a sportsman.



Milkha Singh.

- **Organisation of the Games**

- The first Asian Games were organised in 1951 in New Delhi. The instigator of these Games was the then Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal

Nehru. A major contribution to the organisation of these Games was made by Prof. G.D. Sondhi *, IOC Member in India from 1932 to 1966.

- The 1982 Asian Games will also be staged in New Dehli.

Representation of India at the Olympic Games from 1896 to 1980 ¹

	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1896		x	●	●			x		●		
1900	1		●	●					0 ²		●
1904			0 ²				●		●		
1908			●				●				●
1912			●	●							●
1920	4		●								
1924	8		●								
1928	7		●								
1932	3		●								
1936	4										1
1948	8			7		6			17		2
1952	8(2)			3		4			17	2	2
1956	8(1)								19	2	3
1960	11								19		
1964	12(1)			1		2				7	3
1968	2										1
1972	8			3							1
1976	4			2							1
1980											

¹ The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure

• Not included on the programme.

x Sport included in the programme but in which no event was contested.

² Demonstration sport.



	Handball	Hockey	Judo	Wrestling	Swimming	Modern Pentathlon	Shooting	Archery	Volleyball	Yachting	Total
1896		●	●			●		●	●	x	0
1900		●	●	●		●			●		1
1904		●	●			●	●		●		0
1908			●			●			●		0
1912		●	●					●	●		0
1920			●	2					●		6
1924		●	●					●	●		8
1928		16	●				●	●	●		23
1932		16	●	1				●	●		20
1936	0 ²	16	●	3				●	●		24
1948		16	●	6	14			●	●		76
1952		16	●	4	12(2)			●	●		68(4)
1956		16	●	6	2			●	●		56(1)
1960		16	●	5			5	●	●		56
1964		16		8	2		2	●			53
1968		14	●	4			2	●			23
1972		16		9			4			5	46
1976		16					3				26
1980											

The Indian Olympic Champions

I. Titles obtained at the Olympic Games

The names in heavy print indicate that the champion in question is mentioned again later on. We would like to thank any reader in advance who can help us complete this table and give us news of all the Olympic champions of the past.

Name	Christian Name	sport	Event
Allen Hammond Rocque Yusuf Finniger Norris Cullen Seaman Dhyan Marthins Gateley Singh Ali Feroze	Richard James Leslie Charles Michael E. Sayed M. Broome Eric Rex A. Ernest John Frederic S. Chand George E. Maurice A. Jaipal Shaukat Khan	Hockey	
Hind Tapcell Hammond Minhas Pinningger Bokhari Carr Singh Dhyan Singh Jaffar	Arthur Charles Carlyle Carrol Leslie Charles Masud Broome Eric Lal Shah Richard John Gurmit Chand Roop Sayed Mohomed	Hockey	
Allen Tapcell Hussain Nimal Cullen Galibardy Shahad Ud Din Singh Dhyan Singh Jaffar Michie Peter Phillip Singh Khan Khan Emmett Nasir Un Din Masood	Richard James Carlyle Carrol Mohomed Baboo Narsoo Ernest John Joseph Shabban Dara Chand Roop Sayed Mohomed Cyril James Fernandes Paul Joseph Garewal Gurcharan Ahsan Mohomed Ahmed Sher Lionel C. Mirza	Hockey	
Pinto Singh Singh Datt Kumar Vaz	Leo Trilochan Gentle Randhri Keshava Amir Maxie	Hockey	



Year	Birth
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1926	1902
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	1912
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	1905
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1932	1909
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	1905
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	1910
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	1911
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1936	1902
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	1909
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	1911
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	1908
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	1912
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	1915
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	1909
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	1905
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	1910
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	1911
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	1900
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	1916
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	1911
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	1911
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	1916
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	1912
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	1913
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1948	1922
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	1925
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	1923
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1936 - Berlin : the hockey team, Olympic champions.



Name	Christian Name	sport	Event
Lal Singh Singh Jansen Fernandes Francis Hussain Claudius Rajput Rodrigues Rehman Singh D'Souza Glacken	Kishan Kunwar Digvijal Grahamandan Patrick Lawrie Ranganandhan Akhtar Leslie Walter Jaswant Reginald Latifur Balbir Walter Gerry	Hockey	
Francis Singh Singh Claudius Datt Perumal Lal Singh Singh Singh Rajgopal Deshmutu Daluz Singh	Ranganandhan Dharam Gentle Randhir Leslie Walter Keshava Govind Raghbir Kunwar Digvijal Balbir Udham Muniswamy Chinadorai Meldric St. Clair Grahamandan	Hockey	
Laxman Singh Singh Claudius Kumar Perumal Lal Singh Singh Singh Singh Bhola Stephen Francis Singh Singh Haripal Singh	Shankar Bakshish Gentle Randhir Leslie Walter Amir Govind Raghbir Gurdev Balbir Udham Raghbir Charles Ranganandhan Balkishan Amit Bakshi Kaushik Hardyal	Hockey	
Laxman Singh Singh Lal Singh Singh Singh Singh Peter Singh Haripal Singh Singh Patil Singh Sayeed	Shankar Prithipal Dharam Mohinder Charanjit Gurbux Joginder John V. Harbinder Kaushik Darshan Jagjit Bandu Udham Ali	Hockey	

Year	Birth	Death	Notes
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1948

1922
1926

1920
1927

1929
1924



1948 - London : the Indian champions.

1952

1920
1919
1919
1922
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1922
1942
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1932
1921

1956

1926
1927
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1922
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1923
1928
1929

1933
1942
1928
1928
1930
1920
1933
1936
1934



1952 - The winning team.

1964

1923
1927
1932
1936
1931
1936
1940
1937
1943
1934
1938
1944
1936
1928
1938



November 1977, the President of the IOC, Lord Killanin, with members of the Board of the Indian Olympic Association. On his left, Air Chief Marshal O. P. Mehra, President of the IOA, and on his right, Air Chief Marshal C. L. Mehta, Secretary General of the IOA.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE IOA

- *The revised statutes* came into force in 1976.

- *Composition*

The IOA is comprised of the President, seven Vice-Presidents, a Secretary-General, two Joint Secretaries, a Treasurer, two IOC Members in India, nine representatives from the National Federations Associations affiliated to their respective International Federations, five from the State Olympic Associations and the Services Sports Control Board.

- *A State Olympic Association* has been formed in most of the States and is responsible for the development, promotion and over-all supervision of sports and games in that State.
- *The State Sports Organisations* who are directly affiliated to the National Sports Federations and in turn, to the International Federations, are respon-

sible for a particular sport in each province.

- *The General Assembly* is convened annually in April. Special General Meetings are held at the discretion of the President.

- **Present members of the IOA**

PT : Air Chief Marshal O.P. Mehra * ;
VPTs : Shri Umrao Singh, Shri V.N. Kak, Shri P.N. Sahni, Shri M. Dutta Ray *, Shri B.C. Mohanty, Shri T. Rajagopalachari, AVM H.L. Kapur ; *SG* : Air Vice Marshal C.L. Mehta * ; *Joint S.* : Shri L.N. Khurana, Shri G. Somasekharappa ; *T.* : Shri Ravi Mehta ; *Ms.* : Shri Gurusewak Singh, Shri Daya Singh Sandhu, Shri Nurul Amin, Col. B.L. Verma, Shri Ratilal Khushaldas, Shri Harbans Singh, Shri-mati L. Chhabra, Shri Gopesh N. Mehra, Shri B.K. Patel, Shri Surrendir Singh, Shri B.S. Adityan, Shri P.C. Jain, Shri J.C. Paliwal, Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

IOC Members : Shri Ashwini Kumar * and Raja Bhalindra Singh *.

- **Federations affiliated to the IOA**

15 Olympic federations	Affiliation	Members in	
		1972	1979
Archery	1974	100	1,000
Athletics	1946	2,500	10,000
Basketball	1950	2,000	10,000
Boxing	1948	650	5,000
Cycling	1956	2,400	8,000
Equestrian	1972	150	1,000
Football	1948	50,000	5,000,000
Gymnastics	1948	1,000	5,000
Handball	—	1,000	5,000
Hockey	1848	60,000	4,500,000
Judo	1971	120	2,000
Shooting	1958	300	3,000
Swimming	1956	660	5,000
Weightlifting	1950	1,000	5,000
Wrestling	1952	28,000	1,000,000

..and other associations :

Also working in collaboration with the IOA is the Services Control Board, created in 1948, which represents the Armed Services, the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India and the 20 Regional State Olympic Associations belonging to the IOA, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

- **Financing the IOA**

The Indian Olympic Association receives affiliation fees, donations and occasional grants.



Mr. Dutta Ray.

THE IOA AND OLYMPISM

- **The IOC Sessions**

There have been no IOC sessions in India.

- **Olympic Day**

Olympic Day is celebrated by certain Regional Olympic Associations.

- **Protection of the Olympic Emblems**

The IOA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in India, has taken steps to have the Olympic symbol and emblems protected by law in the country.

- **International Olympic Academy**

The Indian Olympic Association sent participants to the Academy in 1973 and 1975.

- **Publications of the IOA**

There are no regular IOA publications.

- **Olympic awards obtained**

Dutta Ray * was awarded the Bronze Medal of the Olympic Order in 1977 for his life-long dedication to promoting the Olympic movement in India.

Mr. Surjit Singh Majithia, a prominent dignitary in sports in the country and a Vice-President of the International Wrestling Federation (FILA), was also awarded a Bronze Medal of the Olympic Order in 1976.



1975 - The Indian President, Mr. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, is introduced to the long distance runner Hari Chand, champion of Asia, by Mr. Umrao Singh, President of the National Amateur Athletics Federation. Mrs. Abida Gagam, the President's wife, attended this reception.

SPORTS IN INDIA

• Other Sports governing bodies

The IOA co-operates with the Ministry of Education which governs sports education in schools in India.

• State Aid for the Sports Movement

The State subsidises the NOC in accordance with certain agreements which are limited to financially assisting competitors attending training camps with a view to participating in internationally recognised events and to providing air fares for participation in these competitions.

• Training of Sports Leaders

Normally the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries of the National Federations are men of eminence who assist the National Federations/Associations by way of honorary services. Thus sports leaders are recruited at a local

as well as a regional level. If and when an occasion arises these leaders undergo training at international seminars/courses. However, coaches in the different sports receive regular training at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala, and they in turn, provide training for competitors.

• Sports facilities

A reasonable number of sports installations exist in metropolitan cities of the country. A brief description of these facilities is given below :

Delhi :

- Four open stadiums, viz. National Stadium, Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, Shivaji Stadium and Model Town Stadium. In addition, two small covered indoor stadia are available.
- One international swimming pool and three additional swimming pools are also available. However, in view of the fact that the 1982 Asian Games are to be staged in Delhi, the existing facilities will be improved considerably and modern infrastructure will also be added.

Bombay :

Six open stadia, as per details given below :

- Brabourne Stadium for Cricket with a seating capacity of 50,000.
- Wankhade Stadium, with a seating capacity of 50,000, has various swimming facilities.
- NSCI Stadium.
- WIFA Stadium for Football.
- Bombay University Stadium.
- Bombay Hockey Association Stadium.

In addition, there are innumerable playing-fields and swimming pools attached to clubs.

Calcutta :

There is a large sports complex of playing fields, popularly known as "Maidan" near Eden Gardens. Primarily football is played on different club grounds in this complex. Attached to the "Maidan" there is a cricket stadium. In South Calcutta, Rabindra Sarober Stadium with a seating capacity of 100,000 is being constructed. The main attraction is the newly built Netaji Indoor Stadium, which has a seating capacity of 10,000. The hall is air-conditioned and has flood-lighting facilities. In addition, there are numerous swimming pools and playing-fields attached to the clubs.

Madras :

There are six open and one indoor stadia, as follows :

- Nehru Stadium.
- Chidambaram Stadium.
- Raja Ratnam Athletic Stadium.
- Corporation Stadium.
- Nungambakam Stadium (Tamil Nadu Sports Council).
- Tennis Stadium.
- Madras University Indoor Stadium.

Bangalore :

Though Bangalore is a small city in comparison with Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, it has appreciably large sports installations, details of which are given below :

- Sri Kanteerava Stadium.
- Karnataka Cricket Stadium.
- Bangalore Football Stadium.
- NIS Sports Complex.
- Jayanagar Sports Complex.
- Hockey Stadium.
- Rajendersinhji Stadium.

In addition, there is also the Ulsoor Corporation swimming pool and the MEG swimming pool.

Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala

Amongst the sports installations in the country, mention must be made above all of the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala, which was established by the Government of India in 1961. The Institute is located in the Moti Bagh Palace and has well laid-out playing-fields and grounds and ample covered accommodation spread over about 250 acres of land. The Institute has training centres at Bangalore and Delhi. The main aims and objectives of the Institute are as follows :

- a) to produce coaches of high calibre and help raise the technical competence of existing coaches,
- b) to serve as a centre for the diffusion of as much information as possible about sport,
- c) to prepare national teams before participation in international events and publish literature in the field of sports.

The Institute holds regular courses (ten months from July to April), a master's course (22 months from July onwards), a condensed course (six month from July to December) and refresher courses for young coaches. The courses are held in 17 games and sports.

By now about 4,000 coaches have qualified from the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala.

The Institute has also been of great assistance in conducting Solidarity courses held under the auspices of the IOC from time to time.

During his tour to India in 1977, Lord Killanin, President of the IOC, visited the Institute to see for himself the excellent work being done there in the field of sports. Lord Killanin, paying his tributes to the Institute, observed :

"My visit to National Institute of Sports at Patiala was one of the highlights of my recent trip. I was particularly interested to see it having heard so

much following the Olympic Solidarity Courses. Certainly your potentials are tremendous."

● **Sports at School**

Unfortunately not all schools in India have facilities for the promotion of sports at this level. Physical activities are provided in the form of light exercises at middle-school level for those in the age-group of 11.

Wherever facilities are available, the practice of true sport generally starts at the age of 14.

However, there is an increasing awareness of this problem in educational institutions and future planning is trying to cater for facilities as far as possible.

● **Indians and the International Federations**

Mr. Surjit Singh Majithia, closely associated with wrestling for over fifteen years, is senior Vice-President of the Federation Internationale de Lutte Amateur.

Mr. Ashwini Kumar *, presently one of two IOC members in India, was Vice-President from 1956 to 1976 of the Federation Internationale de Hockey.

● **Sports which draw the biggest crowds**

Cricket, football, hockey, wrestling, volleyball, basketball, badminton.

● **Sports experiencing the greatest change**

Athletics, wrestling, tennis, badminton, cricket, hockey, baseball.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Raja Bhalindra Singh

IOC Member since 1947.

Born 9th August 1919 at Patiala, an ardent cricket player who also participated in riding and tennis, Raja Bhalindra Singh acceded to the presidency of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India (1953-1958) ; the Indian Olympic Association (1960-1975) ; and the Punjab State Olympic Association.

Shri Ashwini Kumar

IOC Member since 1973.

Born 27th December 1920 at Jullundur, Mr. Kumar has distinguished himself both in the academic and sports spheres. In addition to being the most highly-decorated police officer in the country, he is a well-known Urdu poet. In 1942, after obtaining his Master's Degree in history from Government College Lahore where he won distinction for his participation in hockey, rowing, boxing, and athletics, Mr. Kumar joined the Indian (Imperial) Police where in over 30 years of outstanding service he acceded to Director-General of the Border Security Force.

Apart from his long association with the development of hockey, Mr. Kumar has held varied positions, such as national President of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India, of the Basketball Federation, and the Punjab Olympic Association ; Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation for some 20 years

Air Chief Marshal O. P. Mehra (Retd.)

President of the Indian Olympic Association.

President of the NOC since 1976, Air Chief Marshal Mehra has had a long association with the development of the Indian Hockey Federation as well as the Services Sports Control Board which represents all the armed forces in India. After being Vice-President of the IOA from 1958 to 1968, he acceded to his current position. He was also elected as President of the Asian Games Federation in December 1978.

Air Vice Marshal C. L. Mehta (Retd.)

Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association since 1976.

He was a member of the Services Sports Control Board for 14 years and later became President of this body for a term of four years during 1966-70. He was responsible for organising sports for the three Services, Army, Navy and Air Force, throughout India. He has been Vice-President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation since 1963 and was elected as President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation in 1974.

He was Chief-de-Mission of the Indian Contingent which participated in the Bangkok Asian Games 1966 and was Secretary-Treasurer (Deputy Chief-de-Mission) for the Indian contingent which participated in the Montreal Olympics in 1976. He was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Asian Games Federation

Shri M. Dutta Ray

Associated with the development of football in India for many years, first as a player, he was Vice-President of the Indian Football Federation for ten years and then President, an office he held for twelve years. He was a member of the Indian Olympic Association for thirty years.

Maharaja Bhupindra Singh of Patiala

President of the Indian Olympic Association from 1928-1938.

A distinguished player of polo and cricket, Maharaja Bhupindra Singh was an ardent patron and promoter of sports in India whilst ruler of the State of Patiala. During his regime, a few teams from foreign countries visited India which gave a good deal of impetus to the sports interests in the country.

Maharaja Yadavendra Singh of Patiala

President of the Indian Olympic Association from 1938 to 1960.

Maharaja Yadavendra Singh was the son of Maharaja Bhupindra Singh. His devotion to sports led to his position as President of the Indian Olympic Association for nearly 22 years. He was patron of numerous sports bodies in India. Maharaja Yadavendra Singh was still actively interested in the development of sports in his country when he died in 1973 whilst serving as Indian Ambassador to the Hague.

Prof. Guru Dutt Sondhi

IOC Member from 1932 to 1966.

Member of the Executive Board from 1961 to 1965.

A teacher by profession, Mr. Sondhi was one of the pioneers of the Olympic movement in India becoming the first Honorary Secretary of the Indian Olympic Association from 1928 to 1952.

Involved in numerous national committees over the years, Mr. Sondhi held positions, such as Chairman of the Punjab Olympic Association (1927-1938); President of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India (1938-1945) and Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation in 1946.

Sir Dorabji J. Tata

IOC Member from 1920 to 1930.

As a forerunner of industrialisation and the Olympic movement in India, Sir Dorabji Tata was a devoted patron of sports and sportsmen in India. It was due to his untiring efforts that a few athletes were sponsored for participation in the Olympic Games held in Antwerp in 1920, thus putting India on the Olympic map. Later he was honoured by being elected as the first President of the Indian Olympic Association. He held this position from 1927 to 1928.

