

# MY 'BEIJING OLYMPIC' EXPERIENCE

– BK. Jagbir Singh, Mt. Abu



To start with, I would like to thank the Sports Information Agency of the Olympic Committee of Russia (SIA OCR), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation-Delhi House, Indian Amateur Boxing Federation and Sports Wing of Brahma Kumaris Institution, for their initiation, positive approach and whole-hearted support for my participation as an observer in Olympic Games.

Before I start sharing my Olympic experience, I would like to mention about the short story of the Olympic Games History. The Olympic Games is an international Multi-Sport event established for both summer and winter games. There have been two generations of the Olympic Games; the first were the Ancient Olympic Games (776 BC) at Olympia, Greece. The second, known as the Modern

Olympic Movement, which were first held in 1896, in Athens, Greece. The modern Olympics feature the Summer Games and Winter Games. The Para-Olympic and Youth Olympic Games are variations of the Modern Olympic Movement. The Games are held after every four years. London will host the next Games in 2012.

There were 28 sports disciplines involving 302 events held at 37 different venues in the Beijing Olympics.

China celebrated its ancient past and modern power on the Opening Ceremony on 8<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2008. The 3½ hour-long ceremony began amid tight security on 08-08-2008 at 08.08 pm. The number eight is considered lucky because of its similarity to the word for 'prosperity' in Mandarin.

By tradition, the Greek team led 10,500 athletes

from 205 countries into the stadium, nicknamed The Bird's Nest for its crisscross framework.

The Chinese President Hu Jintao said that the opening ceremony represented 'a historic moment,' while International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said the Olympics 'will help both the world to understand China better and may be for China to understand the world better.'

One world, one dream! This beautiful theme became a reality on the closing day at The Bird's Nest. The closing ceremony started as a celebration of unity, brotherhood of humanity and a re-assertion of China's will to tell the world that impossible is nothing. China was on top of the world and no one grudged them their success.

A dazzling ceremony

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brought down the curtains on the most spectacular Olympics to date. The Games set a record with an estimated TV viewer-ship equal to 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the world's population.

I also acknowledge the kind support of Indian Amateur Boxing Federation officials at Delhi Airport and Beijing Airport. Due to the support of the officials, I could get all the security checks and other formalities done along with their groups promptly. They had shown lot of love and concern. I felt at an ease during the flight as well as during the waiting hours at the airport. I could share my spiritual experience with them and the importance of Rajyoga Meditation in enhancing performance and mind power for our sportspersons. They also paved the way for my entry into different sports venues by giving passes or tickets. Many of our members in Beijing could witness different events. I specially thank brother Ajay Singh Chautala, President of Table Tennis Federation of India, and Colonel PK Murlidharan Raja, Secretary

General of Indian Amateur Boxing Federation, for their care and affection.

I was really touched by the way Sis. Chen and Sis. Super Lee received me at Beijing airport. Sis. Chen made my stay in Beijing and feel at home; she ensured proper accommodation, transportation and an interpreter to cover different venues. Her staff made my stay as if I was in Madhuban and taken care of me like that of a baby. That has been possible due to the support of her staff in helping me in cooking, taking trains, buses, taxies and going to the Great Wall of China. It is indeed very difficult to name all those who supported me during my stay for which I extend a genuine and a very special thanks to all of them.

Thanks for all the three brothers Abhinav Bindra, Vijender Singh and Sushil Kumar for having made India's dream of Olympic Medals a reality, especially to Abhinav Bindra for the first-ever Gold in an individual event and Vijender Singh who ensured a historic

Olympic Bronze medal which was India's first Boxing Medal since its introduction in the Olympic Games in 1904. My joy knew no bounds when I witnessed his bout, as I myself have been into this game for many years. Sushil Kumar's feat was nonetheless impressive, as he is the only second wrestler after KD Jadhav who won medal for India after 1954 Helsinki Olympic Games.

I would also like to thank B.K. Bro. Basavaraj, the Chairperson of Sports Wing, National Co-ordinator B.K. Sis. Kuldeep and BK Ashok Gaba and B.K. Sis. Geeta of Gyan Sarovar for their full praise and moral support from time-to-time by calling me and knowing my wellbeing at Beijing. When I narrated my Beijing Olympic experience to all my brothers and sisters in our institution, their hearts were filled with pride.

My visit to the Olympic Games was the talking point of all meetings of officials at Beijing especially in the Indian Olympic Association and Indian Boxing Federation circles. They were surprised to

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know that I was representing the Sports Wing of Brahma Kumaris at the Olympics.

It was a fortnight that will for long echoed in the minds of all those who had the good fortune to be a part of the Beijing Olympics. Chinese have proved that there is a lot that can be achieved through single-minded determination and with firmness of purpose even against all odds.

For us Indians, the three medals at the Games signalled the dawn of renewed hope and a promise of a brighter future significantly at a time when our country is beginning to

stake claim as one of the emerging world leaders in the coming decades. The golden efforts of Abhinav Bindra and the bronze medals of boxer, Vijender and wrestler Sushil Kumar are certain to motivate the new generation of Indian sportsmen, who have started to believe in their innate abilities. The Sports Wing of Brahma Kumaris is ready to help our sportspersons to act as sports analyst and mental trainer in future to help in assisting them in their performance and mental power through Rajyoga

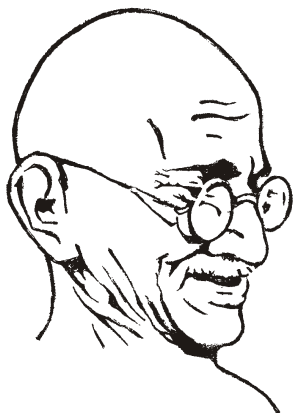
Meditation.

On behalf of Sports Wing of Brahma Kumaris Institution, I thank each and everyone of our Brahmin family members especially our Chief of Brahma Kumaris, Rajyogini Dadi Janki ji and B.K. Sis. Mohini, B.K. Bro. Nirwair, BK. Brij Mohan Bhai, B.K. Bro. Ramesh Shah, BK. Sis. Shashi, and all the members of the Sports Wing, whose good wishes made my participation in one of the Earth's biggest sporting extravaganza the Olympics, held in Beijing, China, a reality. ■

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## CHARACTER

Your character must be above suspicion and you must be truthful and self-controlled. The truest test of civilisation, culture and dignity is character, not clothing. A language is an exact reflection of the character and growth of its speakers.



Men of stainless character and self-purification will easily inspire confidence and automatically purify the atmosphere around them. Sorrow and suffering make our character if they are voluntarily borne, but not if they are imposed. If you have no character, people will have no faith in you. The real property that a parent can transmit to all equally is his or her character and educational facilities. If you will express the requisite purity of character in action, you cannot do it better than through the spinning wheel. All your scholarship, all your study of Shakespeare and Wordsworth would be vain if at the same time you do not build your character and attain mastery over your thoughts and your actions.