



# Historical Development of Sports Movement In Manipur (Olympic Games & Related achievement)

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## Abstract

(Olympic Games movement in Manipur began to gather steam right from the 1970s of the last century when Nongthombam Maipak Singh won overall 5<sup>th</sup> position in international body building 1972 held at Paris France. Though a non Olympic Games, his achievement became a stepping stone for the youths of Manipur. It began to produce Olympians from 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, USA and till Tokyo Olympics, it has 19 athletes, so far including 3 two timers, one Team captain and one three timers.

Government of India honoured sports achievers with prestigious rewards every year. Among the national achievers, Manipur has produced 19 Arjuna Awards, 2 with Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards (Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award), 5 Padma Shree Awards, 1 Padma Bhusan, 1 Padmavibhusan, 1 Dronacharya Award, 1 Dhyan Chand Award, winners, till date)

**Key words:** Arjuna Awards, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards (Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award), Padma Shree Awards, Padma Bhusan, Padmavibhusan, Dronacharya Award, Dhyan Chand Award.

## Introduction:

Olympic Movement in Manipur began to gain momentum in the form of sports achievement either individual or team events both in the domestic circuits and abroad including Olympics Games/ world cup, etc. The state has been producing numbers of national & international champions of both none Olympic or Olympic games since its merger into the Indian union on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1949 and the timeline started with the

participation of Nongthombam Maipak Singh at the world body building championship Paris France, 1972 and won overall 5<sup>th</sup> position.

In the field of sports excellence, the Directorate of Youth Affairs & Sports, Khuman Lampak, Imphal, Sports Authority of India, North Eastern Region Centre, Takyel, Imphal West, (1986) SAI, Utlou, Imphal, Takyelpat, Special Area Games, Khuman Lampak, Imphal, National Sports Academy Khuman Lampak, Imphal have contributed lots from time to time and the results can be treated excellent so far.

### Performance and Medals won by Manipur at the National Games till date:

The little state of Manipur began to participate in the National Games of India since the 1<sup>st</sup> edition (modern version) of the game held in the year 1985 at New Delhi. The state began to perform well ever since and in the 5<sup>th</sup> National Games, Imphal 1999, Manipur won the prestigious Raja Bhallendra Trophy for being the winners of the overall team champion of the meet.

### The Medals won by Manipur in the National Games are given below:

Events	Position	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1st National Games, Delhi, 1985	14th	2	5	3	10
2nd National Games, Kerala, 1987	14th	3	3	7	13
3rd National Games, Maharashtra, 1994	9th	13	11	18	42
4th National Games, Karnataka, 1997	9th	15	10	17	42
5th National Games, Imphal, 1999 Won Raja Bhailendro Trophy.	1st	49	24	39	112
31st National Games, Punjab, 2001	3rd	30	17	18	65
32nd National Games, Hyderabad, 2002	4th	38	24	31	93
33rd National Games, Assam, 2007	2nd	51	32	40	123
34th National Games, Jharkhand, 2012	2nd	48	37	33	118
35 <sup>th</sup> National Games, Kerala, 2015	7 <sup>th</sup>	22	21	26	69

Web portal Manipur Olympic Association (2016)

### Manipur at the Olympics so far:

The 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 1980's became the eye opener of the state Olympic committee when a star was born in P. Nilkamal Singh who has created history as the first Olympian ever from the state to represent India team at the Los Angeles Olympic Games 1984. After him, Manipur became one among the states that has produced international champion/world cupper or Olympian at time intervals. So far, the state has produced 19 Olympians including three medal winners at the Olympic Games. The three medalists are Mrs. Mary Kom, a bronze medalist in women's boxing (London Olympics 2012), Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, a silver medalist (Tokyo Olympics 2020-21) and Shanglekpa Premkanta Sharma, a bronze medalist in Men's Hockey (Tokyo Olympics 2020-21). Among the Olympians, there are 3 two timers i.e one in boxing (w), one in Hockey (w) and one in weight lifting (w) as well as one three timer (Hat Trick) in archery sports. The state has also produced one national captain for Team India Hockey i.e P Sushilla Chanu of Manipur captained Indian women hockey team at the Rio Olympics 2016.

Sl.No	Name	Event	Venue	Year	Status
1	P. Nilkamal Singh	Field Hockey (M)	Los Angeles, U.S.A	1984	Participate
2	KshThoiba Singh	-do-	Seoul, South Korea	1988	-do-
3	Kh Kothajit Singh	-do-	London, England	2012	-do-
4	K.Chinglensana	-do-	Rio, Brazil	2016.	-do-
5	Nilakanta Sharma	-do-	Tokyo	2020	Bronze
6	Th. Anuradha	Field Hockey (W)	Rio, Brazil	2016	Participate
7	P. Sushila Chanu Captain (Rio-2016)	-do-	Rio, Brazil & Tokyo, Japan	2016 2020	-do- do-
8	Ng. Dingko Singh	Boxing (M)	Sydney, Australia	2000	-do-
9	S. Suresh Singh	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
10	L. Devendro Singh	-do-	-do-	2012	-do-
11	MC. Mary Kom	Boxing (W)	London, England & Tokyo, Japan	2012 2020	Bronze Participate
12	Th. Sanamacha Chanu	Weight Lifting	Athens, Greece	2004	-do-
13	N. Kunjarani Devi	-do-	Athens, Greece	2004	4 <sup>th</sup>
14	Ng. Sonia Chanu	-do-	London, England	2012	Participate
15	S. Mirabai Chanu	-do-	Rio, Brazil & Tokyo, Japan	2016 2020	-do- Silver
16	L. Brojeshori Devi	Judo	Sydney, Australia	2000	Participate
17	Kh. Tombi Devi	-do-	Beijing, China	2008	-do-
18	L. Sushila Chanu	-do-	Tokyo, Japan	2020	-do-
19	L. Bombayla Devi	Target Archery	Beijing, China, London, England & Rio, Brazil.	2008, 12 & 16	-do-

Epaon Net Digital News Portal (2021)

### Arjuna Awardees of Manipur:

In recognition of their achievement in the field of different games and sports, the Government of India annually honoured many athletes of the nation with Arjuna Awards including 19 from Manipur. It is one of the famous sports awards given to individuals for their exemplary performance in various sports. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India extends this award since 1961 and so far Manipur has produced 19 **Arjuna Award** winning athletes till as listed below.

Sl.No	Name	Event	Year
1	N. Kunjarani Devi	Weightlifting	1990
2	Ng. Dingku Singh	Boxing	1998
3	Ksh. Tingongleima Devi	Hockey	2000
4	Th. Sanamacha Chanu	Weightlifting	2000
5	M.C. Mary Kom	Boxing	2003
6	W. Surjalata Devi	Hockey	2004
7	A. Anita Chanu	Judo	2007
8	Kh. Tombi Devi	Judo	2008
9	L. Sarita Devi	Boxing	2009

10	M. Suranjoy Singh	Boxing	2011
11	W. Shandhyarani (Sanshou 60Kg)	Wushu	2011
12	L. Bombayla Devi	Archery	2012
13	Ng. Sonia Chanu	Weightlifting	2012
14.	M. Bimoljit Singh	Wushu	2012
15	Yumnam Sanathoi Devi	Wushu	2015
16	Laishram Devendro Singh	Boxing	2017
17	Oinam Bembem Devi	Football	2017
18	K. Chinglensana Singh	Hockey	2019
19	Sh. Nilkanta Sharma	Hockey	2021

Free Wikipedia (2021)

### RAJEEV GANDHI KHEL RATNA AWARDEES OF MANIPUR:

The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (RGKR) is India's highest honour given for achievement in sports. The words "Khel Ratna" literally mean "sports gem" in Hindi. It is named after the late Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India and recently renamed as Major Dhyhan Chand (Hockey wizard of India) Khel Ratna Award. Only two female athletes from Manipur could have won the award so far

(The Khel Ratna Award, officially known as the Major Dhyhan Chand Khel Ratna Award, formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in Sports and Games, is the highest sporting honour of India. It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports). Wikipedia.

Sl. No	Name	Event	Year
1	N. Kunjarani Devi	Weightlifting	1997
2	M.C. Mary Kom	Boxing	2003

The Sangai Express English News Daily (2003)

### PADMA SHRI AWARDEE OF MANIPUR:

The Padma Awards were instituted in 1954 and awarded to citizens of India in recognition of their distinguished contribution in various spheres of activity including arts, education, industry, literature, science, sports, medicine, social service and public affairs. It is the fourth-highest civilian award of the Republic of India, after the Bharat Ratna, the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan. It is awarded by the Government of India every year on India's Republic Day

Sl. No.	Name	Event	Year
1	M.C. Mary Kom	Boxing	2006
2	N. Kunjarani Devi	Weightlifting	2011
3	Saikhom Mirabai Chanu	-do-	2018
4	L. Bombayla Devi	Archery	2019
5	Oinam. Bembem Devi	Football	2021

Web portal Manipur Olympic Association (2021)

**PADMA BHUSAN AWARDEE OF MANIPUR:**

The Padma Bhushan is the third-highest civilian award in the Republic of India, preceded by the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Vibhushan.

Sl. No.	Name	Event	Year
1	M.C. Mary Kom	Boxing	2013

Web portal Manipur Olympic Association (2014)

**PADMA VIBHUSAN AWARDEE OF MANIPUR:**

The Padma Vibhushan ("Lotus Decoration") is the second-highest civilian award of the Republic of India, after the Bharat Ratna. Instituted on 2 January 1954.

Sl. No.	Name	Event	Year
1	M.C. Mary Kom	Boxing	2020

Web portal Manipur Olympic Association (2021)

**DRONACHARYA AWARDEE OF MANIPUR:**

Dronacharya Award is an award presented by the government of India for excellence in sports coaching. Instituted in 1985, it comprises a bronze statuette of Dronacharya, a scroll of honour and a cash component of Rs.500, 000.

Among the **DRONACHARYA AWARDEE** of India, Manipur has one famous boxing coach listed as under.

Sl. No.	Name	Event	Year
1	L. Ibomcha Singh, Coach	Boxing	2010

Web portal Manipur Olympic Association (2011)

**DHYANCHAND AWARDEE OF MANIPUR:**

Dhyan Chand Award is India's highest award for lifetime achievement in sports and games, given by the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Government of India. The award is named after the legendary Indian hockey player Dhyan Chand. The award was initiated in 2002 carries a cash prize of INR 5 lakh (500,000 rupees), a statuette, ceremonial dress and a scroll of honour given only to the disciplines included in the events like Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championship and World Cup along with Cricket, Indigenous Games, and Parasports for further approval.

Manipur has produced one excellent coach who has won **DHYANCHAND AWARDEE** in the year **2010**.

Sl. No.	Name	Event	Year
1	L. Anita Chanu	Weightlifting	2010

Web portal Manipur Olympic Association (2011)

In fine, there is no dearth of sports talent in Manipur many of whom has already carved their niche at the zonal, regional and national level tournaments, championships and festivals.

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