

Games of Glory

75,00,000
Tickets on sale

5,00,000
Tourists expected to attend

50,000
Volunteers

40,000
Hotel rooms in Rio

29,000
Mattresses in the Olympic Village

32,000
Tennis balls

25,000
Estimated journalists

8,400
Shuttlecocks

London has hosted the Summer Olympics three times – in **1908**, **1948** and **2012** – more than any other city

The Rio Olympics is expected to **cost \$4.6 billion**, 50% more than earlier thought. London 2012 cost \$15 billion

Athens 1896: **241** Athletes

Rio 2016 (Approximate): **10,500** Athletes

43 Events

14 Participating countries

The Olympic Games were first witnessed in the city-state of Elis in Greece in 776 BC. The event was held every four years till around 400 AD when Roman emperor Theodosius I put an end to it on the belief that it had pagan associations. It was revived in Greece in its modern-day avatar almost 1,500 years later, in 1896, and has grown to become one of the world's largest sporting events. The 28th edition of the Summer Olympics will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, between August 5 and 21. In the run-up to the event, we take you through a brief info-guide to the Games and its history

:: G Seetharaman

Michael Phelps has more medals than any other athlete

Athlete	Country	Sport	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Michael Phelps	US	Swimming	18	2	2	22
Larisa Latynina	Soviet Union	Gymnastics	9	5	4	18
Nikolai Andrianov	Soviet Union	Gymnastics	7	5	3	15
Ole Einar Bjoerndalen	Norway	Biathlon, Cross-country Skiing	8	4	1	13
Boris Shakhlin	Soviet Union	Gymnastics	7	4	2	13
Edoardo Mangiarotti	Italy	Fencing	6	5	2	13
Takashi Ono	Japan	Gymnastics	5	4	4	13
Paavo Nurmi	Finland	Athletics	9	3	0	12
Birgit Fischer	Germany	Kayaking	8	4	0	12
Bjorn Dazhlie	Norway	Cross-country Skiing	8	4	0	12

US is way ahead of other countries

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
US	1,022	786	697	2,505
Soviet Union	396	319	296	1,011
Germany*	269	322	348	939
Great Britain	265	289	290	844
France	214	234	258	706
Italy	206	175	196	577
China	239	171	150	560
Australia	145	169	188	502
Hungary	175	148	169	492
Sweden	144	168	179	491

*Includes figures for West Germany but not East Germany

All Work, No Play for Athletes? Think Again

According to a media report in Brazil, the International Olympic Committee is providing **3,50,000** male condoms, **1,00,000** female condoms and **1,75,000** packets of lubricant to athletes in the Olympic Village

The total number of condoms provided is **three times the figure for the London Olympics, and female condoms are being given out for the first time**

The average number of condoms per athlete is **41 compared with 14** in London

Australian athletes will come armed with **anti-viral condoms to combat the Zika virus** which has cast a shadow on the event

The IOC handed out condoms first in the Seoul edition in 1988

All in Good Time

How time-keeping evolved at the Olympics

1948, London: The first mobile, autonomous, photoelectric cell used along with a new slit-technology photo finish camera improves accuracy to 1/1000th of a second

1956, Helsinki: The Quartz-driven time recorder equipped with a high-speed printer makes its debut

1960, Rome: Omega-scope arrives, a technology that enables superimposition of accurate clocks on TV screens

1968, Mexico City: Touch Pad technology for swimming is introduced; along with Swim-O-Matic (which ensures accuracy to 1/1000th of a second), inaccuracies plaguing swimming are eliminated

1984, Los Angeles: Pressure-sensitive false start detectors make their debut; based on pressure (in kg) that athletes exercise at the start

1988, Seoul: Computerised time-keeping is introduced

1996, Atlanta: Scan-O-Vision photo finish camera is used

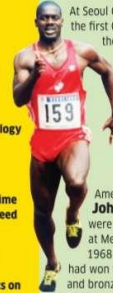
2000, Sydney: Live timing is introduced on the internet

2004, Athens: Timekeepers for the first time also responsible for data

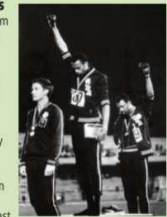
Source: Omega

Controversies at the Games

At Seoul Games in 1988, **Ben Johnson** became the first Canadian runner in six decades to win the 100 m sprint, and while at it, beat the existing world record by completing it in 9.79 seconds. But it was not meant to be. His urine and blood samples tested positive for stanozolol, a steroid, and he was stripped of his gold medal, which was awarded to his American rival Carl Lewis, who clocked 9.92 seconds



American athletes **Tommye Smith and John Carlos** were on podium at Mexico City 1968 as they



had won the gold and bronze medal, respectively, in the 200 m sprint. But, as the US national anthem played, they both bowed their heads and raised a black-gloved hand in protest against the discrimination against fellow blacks in their country. This was months after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. They were **suspended from the US Olympic team**

In what is one of the darkest moments in the history of the Olympics, **eight Palestinian terrorists entered the Olympic Village in Munich** on September 5, 1972, and **killed two Israeli athletes** and took nine Israeli hostages, all of whom were killed in a failed rescue attempt. The terrorists had demanded the release of 200 Palestinian prisoners in Israel



At the Montreal Games in 1976, during the fencing part of the pentathlon, Ukraine's **Boris Onischenko**, who was part of the Soviet team, got his opponents, the Brits, suspicious. While an electronic scoreboard was designed to automatically detect the hit of the blades, Onischenko was scoring even when his sword did not land a hit. Following the complaints of the British team, game officials found that his epee had a pressure pad which when pressed sent signals to the sensors that a hit had been scored even without contact with the opponent. Onischenko was disqualified

India at the Olympics

India first participated in the Olympics in Paris in 1900, represented only by Norman Pritchard, who won two silver medals in athletics

India has won a total of 26 medals: **9 gold, 6 silver and 11 bronze**

India has won 8 gold medals in field hockey, five consecutively between 1928 and 1952 and the last in 1980. India also has 1 silver and 2 bronze medals in hockey



Shooter **Abhinav Bindra** is the only individual gold medal winner from India, having bagged it in the men's 10 m air rifle event in Beijing, 2008

Weightlifter **Karnam Malleswari** was the first Indian woman to win a medal in the Olympics, with a bronze in Sydney, 2000

India had its highest ever number of individual Olympic medal winners in London, 2012, with **two silver winners – Vijay Kumar** in shooting and **Sushil Kumar** in wrestling – and **four bronze winners – Saina Nehwal** (badminton), **Yogeshwar Dutt** (wrestling), **Gagan Narang** (shooting) and **Mary Kom** (boxing)



Source: International Olympic Committee; Guardian; BBC; Britannica Encyclopedia; LA Times