

Indian sports reflect the country's rich cultural diversity, passion, and growing global presence, with a vibrant history that blends traditional games like kabaddi, kho-kho, and gilli-danda with modern international sports such as cricket, hockey, badminton, wrestling, and athletics.

Cricket holds a near-religious following in India, driven by the successes of iconic players like Sachin Tendulkar, M.S. Dhoni, and Virat Kohli, and the country's triumphs in major tournaments such as the ICC World Cups and the rise of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which has revolutionized the sport's global economy. However, beyond cricket, India has also made its mark in other arenas: hockey, once India's national pride with multiple Olympic gold medals, is witnessing a strong revival; badminton has produced world-class champions like P.V. Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, and Kidambi Srikanth; and wrestling, boxing, and shooting have consistently fetched Olympic medals, highlighting India's growing competitiveness on the world stage.

Indigenous sports like kabaddi have seen a professional revival through leagues like the Pro Kabaddi League, bringing traditional games to modern audiences. Football is also rising in popularity, especially in regions like Kerala, West Bengal, and the Northeast, with the Indian Super League (ISL) nurturing new talent. Furthermore, India has shown great promise in athletics, with Neeraj Chopra's historic gold in javelin at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics igniting new hopes.

Government initiatives like Khelo India and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) aim to foster grassroots talent and enhance the country's medal prospects at international events. With an increasingly health-conscious youth, better sports infrastructure, and a growing culture of professionalism and sponsorship, Indian sports are evolving from cricket-centric fandom towards a diverse, multi-sport future with global ambitions.