



Rio 2016

As the curtains fall on the year's most anticipated sporting event, the Rio Olympics, we look back at what made these games special and some moments that will go down in history books. Incidentally, this was

India's largest contingent ever at the Games.

GIRL POWER

After going empty handed for the first 12 days, it almost seemed that India had all but lost the plot at the Olympics when hope came in the form of 23-year-old Sakshi Malik who created history by winning a bronze medal in women's 58 kg freestyle event. In fact, it was a match she was losing at one stage, trailing 0-5 at the end of the first half, Sakshi pulled out all stops to make a dramatic comeback winning the play-off in dramatic fashion pinning down her Kyrgyz opponent in last few seconds of her bout. What makes this gritty wrestler's win even more special is the fact that she is the first female wrestler from India to claim an Olympic medal in wrestling.



In fact, Vinesh Phogat who was anticipated to win a medal was unfortunately injured as she suffering a knee dislocation during her quarterfinal bout in her 48kg freestyle bout against China's Sun Yanan. What makes Sakshi's win sweeter is the fact that she is a shining example of what can come when women are encouraged to pursue their dreams without gender disparity. Sakshi admitted that the win came after 12 years of hard work. Having started in Haryana's Mokhra village she began her training as a 12-year-old under Ishwar Dahiya (who faced tough opposition for training a girl) at an *akhada* (traditional gym) in the Chotu Ram Stadium. And the girl who did it simply said, "my biggest dream ever was to run with the Indian flag. I could not do it after I won my Commonwealth medal, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity here."

FUN FACTS

For the first time in Olympic history, a South American country hosted the Games

60,000 meals per day were prepared every day to feed the athletes

This was the first time that athletes born in the year 2000 featured in the Olympics.

70,000 volunteers were selected to help in the games.

The mascot for 2016 is 'Vinicius' representing Brazilian wildlife and resembles a cat or monkey that can fly and has the power to stretch its limbs and body.

This has been the most secure games with over 85,000 soldiers and policemen being deployed. A total of 7.5 million tickets, with prices ranging from \$40 to \$3,000 were up for sale.

27 new world records were set in Rio.

10,000 athletes from 207 countries participated in 17 days competing across 306 events.