



# The Golden Year

## Annual Report 2022





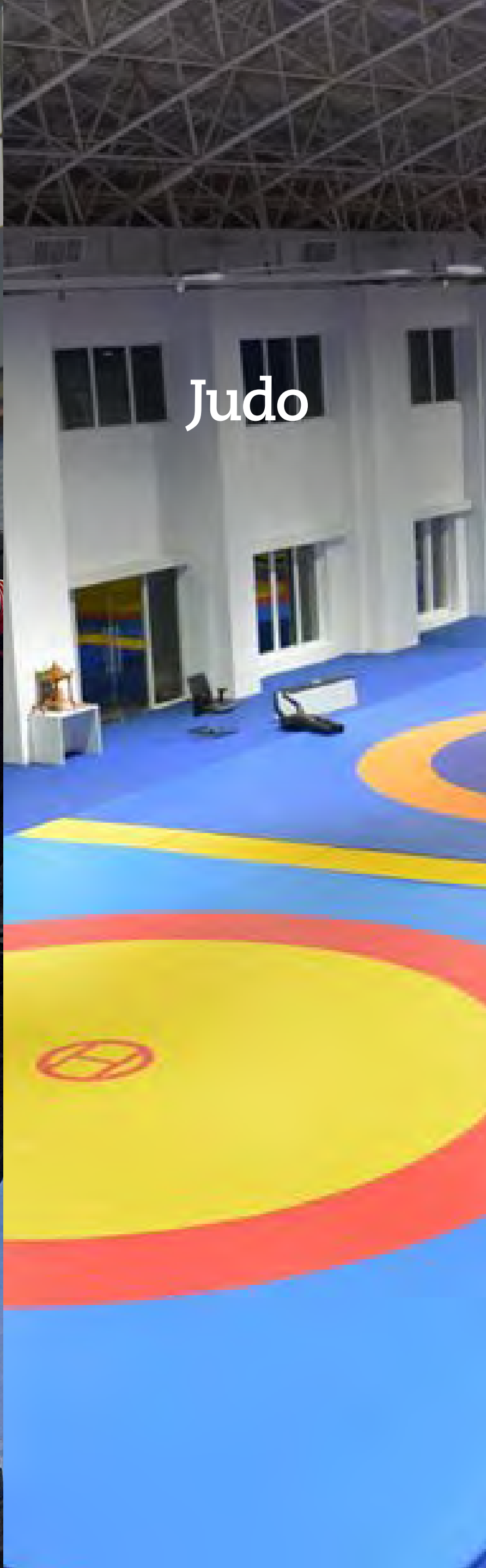
Wrestling



Boxing



Judo



Swimming



Athletics





# Contents

A portrait of Parth Jindal, a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a green patterned tie. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred blue and white.

**Parth Jindal**

Dear Friends,

As I begin to write my note to you reviewing the Inspire Institute of Sport's progress over the past one year, I can't help but feel overcome by a feeling of pride. A feeling that has been a constant part of my conscience since the evening of August 7, 2021, when not one, but two of IIS' very own athletes won India medals at the Tokyo Olympics and helped make it our country's most successful Olympic Games ever.

We always knew that India had the talent, which needed to be nurtured and groomed appropriately, to succeed at the global sporting scale. But to see that belief realize into action and help kickstart a new movement for Olympic sports in India, especially after the two years of extended despair that the COVID-19 pandemic had brought, was something beyond my imagination. In Bajrang Punia's brave fight for Bronze despite being injured, and Neeraj Chopra's Gold winning javelin, I found the vindication of a personal dream and vision—one that was the genesis of the JSW Group's decision to set up a High Performance Olympic Training Centre for Indian athletes.

It is with this renewed confidence that we at IIS are now doubling down on our efforts to ensure we can help Indian athletes repeat these performances at major global events. Tokyo was just the start, and with our junior athletes now rising up through the ranks with promising results, we've got the next Olympic Games in Paris and Los Angeles very much within our sights. Our athletes are now routinely winning medals for India at the Asian and World levels in their age-group categories. These results, together with the performances at the Commonwealth Games where IIS athletes won 13 medals, or about a fifth of Team India's total, only goes to show that we are on the right track.

The expansion of the IIS ecosystem is underway in earnest with a satellite centres in Hisar and Himachal Pradesh completely operational with 200 athletes in the sports of boxing, wrestling and athletics. In partnership with the Odisha government, we have kicked off an ambitious High Performance Swimming program, which promises to change the way aquatics sport is run in India.

Our efforts are now going beyond our centres and we are making IIS and our expertise well-engrained in the entire Indian sports ecosystem. We've forged High Performance Partnerships with the Wrestling, Boxing and Judo Federations of India, to help these federations develop their youth programs, provide athletes more competition and training opportunities and bring on board international experts to develop the entire sports ecosystem, including upskilling opportunities for the Indian coaches, support staff and athletes. Our IIS coaches and staff are working more closely with not just IIS athletes, but with national team members from across sports, in line with our vision for IIS to be accessible to all Indian athletes.





Parth Jindal

At Vijayanagar, we have commissioned a 25m swimming pool and work is underway on a new staff and athlete accommodation block which will bring our capacity up to 350 athletes by next year. As athletes progress through their development pathways, we have expanded our staff with added expertise needed to assist them best in this crucial phase of their careers as they transition from the junior to the senior levels. To this effect, we have restructured and centralized our entire Sports Science program, besides having multiple Olympic Gold Medallists and former World Championship medallists leading our Wrestling and Track & Field Programs.

Despite the challenges caused by extended lockdowns, lack of competitions and training events, I am proud of the way IIS was able to provide a safe training environment for our athletes over the past 18-24 months. This has been due to the hard yards put in by the IIS team and has reaffirmed the importance of process-driven and well-structured high performance management in training centres.

We were able to ensure athlete safety, and adapt training methodologies to provide a disruption-free training environment to athletes, especially in the contact sports. With most of the country in lockdown, and government facilities focused on the elite and senior athletes, IIS was able to successfully host multiple national camps and competitions to provide crucial exposure to athletes in the sub-junior, cadet and youth categories. I am delighted to inform you all that IIS is now the destination of choice for training camps & athlete rehabilitation, and is being seen as a model institute by the government and private entities alike.

However, we at IIS could not have done this alone. It is here that the tremendous might of the entire IIS Family- the athletes, coaches, support staff, management and You, our dear partners and supporters, comes together towards making India a sporting powerhouse. I have nothing but gratitude for all your unwavering support and confidence to back us in our vision.

When we launched IIS in 2017, I had said that the goal of IIS was to help us see the tricolour flying high and hear the Jana Gana Mana multiple times at the Olympic Games. I do feel truly humbled and privileged to have seen that vision come true in our very first Olympic cycle, and promise to stop at nothing to ensure we can make this dream come true again and again at future Olympic Games and other world level events.

Jai Hind.

Parth Jindal



A professional headshot of Mustafa Ghouse, a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a green and brown striped tie. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera.

**Mustafa Ghouse**

Dear IIS Family,

It's been quite an eventful past 12 months for everyone associated with the Inspire Institute of Sport, and I am extremely pleased that we have all together been able to celebrate the success that our athletes have brought the nation, something which was always meant to be the foundation of every activity we take up at IIS. When I wrote to you all last year, I said we were entering a year of uncertainty, but it was the triumph of spirit and the pursuit of excellence, values that embody all Olympic sports and athletes, that would hopefully help our athletes write new chapters in Indian sport.

Today, I am immensely proud that our initiative and collective efforts have played a role in India registering its most successful Olympic campaign ever at the Tokyo Olympics last year. As Neeraj Chopra progresses from strength to strength, being the flagbearer for Indian athletics globally, there is a renewed sense of optimism and confidence among our athletes: that they can also be the best in the world. It is this confidence that sets apart today's generation of Indian athletes, and one that I'm sure will lead to multiple more success stories coming out of IIS in the not-too-distant future.

At IIS, our goal of providing Indian athletes the best-in-class sports infrastructure, training and sports science support continues to be the driving force behind every new initiative we take up. In that regard, the new group of coaches we've brought on board, along with a restructured Sports Science set-up and an added focus on education of athletes is a step forward in our development as a High Performance Centre of Excellence. With the swimming pool now operational and a new girls hostel block already under construction, we are on the right track to enhance capabilities and provide a better on-campus experience for our athletes and staff.

Our initial success has spurred us on to set up similar centres across the country, and we are already well on the way of expanding the IIS footprint beyond Vijayanagar, with satellite facilities in Himachal, Haryana, Odisha and the North-East either already established or coming up soon. With an eye on the long-term development of our program and a target of greater success at the 2024 Paris, 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and beyond, we have also initiated the process of setting up a European training base for our athletes and an entity in the United States to explore collaboration opportunities, and provide athletes much-needed exposure.

The athletes are benefitting from the structured training programs, and support systems that IIS is providing them, and the proof is quite literally in the pudding! Over the past years, IIS athletes have now won upwards of 500 medals across national, continental and world levels. Personally, I am excited to see the junior athletes who have been with us since 2017 making the transition to the senior level and expressing themselves at the world stage. Boxers Nishant Dev and Nikhat Zareen and Athletes Praveen Chithravel and Jeswin Aldrin, for instance, are proud IIS products who are now holding their own against the best not just in India, but the entire world.



A portrait of Mustafa Ghouse, a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a white shirt. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a textured, light grey.

## Mustafa Ghouse

Besides the success on the field, I am happy to note the great strides our athletes are taking off their respective fields of play. Be it our increasingly impressive academic results, or the various life-skills workshops and year-long communication modules that have been conducted, IIS athletes are being equipped to be not just better athletes, but develop holistically as better citizens who can contribute positively to society and their communities.

The constant support and backing of our Group of IIS partners through our entire journey has been nothing short of exceptional. We now have a great mix of around 30 corporate partners, encompassing a wide range of sectors, who have joined us in our journey to professionalize and create a high performance ecosystem for sport in the country. The fact that this number has only grown, despite the broader macroeconomic situations globally, is a huge boost of confidence for our vision and keeps us focused on the task at hand. To all our IIS patrons and donors, I extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude, and assure you that we will continue to push the envelope to take this Olympic Movement we've started to even greater heights.

Thank you.





**Rushdee Warley**

Dear IIS Family,

The year gone by has been truly momentous for us at the Inspire Institute of Sport, challenging and fulfilling in equal measure, with its fair share of trials and tribulations for our athletes and staff. The one thing that has remained constant is our continuing desire to provide the best world-class daily training environment for our IIS athletes- a mission we started off with five years ago, but one that has become deeply engrained in everything we do here in our facility and beyond.

For me, the most important aspect of 2021 was the validation from across quarters of the systems and processes we have set up across our sports. This happened through a variety of factors, including the launch of our feeder centres across the country, consolidation of our efforts with the Sports Authority of India and the various sports federations, and of course, through the performances of our athletes on their respective fields of play, and most importantly for me, off it.

We were always confident that our plans to develop a holistic and inter-disciplinary high-performance ecosystem will have a lasting impact on Indian sport. That confidence, now backed by tangible results, has made us even more confident about India's future prospects on the global sporting stage. Having worked with our residential athletes for almost half a decade now, we have been able to collect invaluable data, adapt global systems and programs to suit Indian athletes, and course-correct where necessary, to create the most appropriate training environment to allow athletes to excel.

Neeraj Chopra, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia's Olympic medals have unquestionably lit the flame for our athletes, making them believe that they too can make it at the world stage. What makes me proudest is to see the young athletes, who have been with us since 2017, develop into mature, thinking athletes, at par (if not better) than their peers across the world. Many of these athletes are now transitioning to the senior level and surprising sports followers with their performances.

To us though, this is just the by-product of the perfect marriage between the raw, natural talent of the athlete and the structured systems put in place at IIS to nurture them into elite performers. In this regard, the dedication of our Academic Team to ensure that over 50 of our athletes successfully cleared Class 10 and 12 exams in the past year is testament to the effectiveness of this system.



## Rushdee Warley



And it is this system of holistic youth development that we are now ready to take across the country to have a more lasting impact and legacy across Indian sports. To this effect, our satellite centres in Hisar, Himachal and the North East are already starting to show significant results, which bode well for the future.

On a personal level, a project I am incredibly excited about is the Odisha Swimming Program, which we are developing in partnership with the state government. After a delayed launch caused by COVID, we hit the ground running in 2021 and are already running 'Learn to Swim' programs across 9 districts, reaching thousands of children, to raise awareness about swimming as a life skill. At the other end of the pyramid, the Odisha-JSW High Performance Centre in Bhubaneswar is truly a world class facility and with global experts on board, we are looking forward to creating a splash in the pool quite literally in the years to come!

We're already mid-way in to the Paris 2024 Olympic cycle and with Paris and Los Angeles (in 2028) being our original goals, we have revamped operations with an eye on achieving the ambitious goals we have charted for ourselves. We have brought

in new coaching staff in wrestling, boxing and athletics to focus on the transition of our juniors to the next stage. On the Sports Science front, we have restructured our setup under a new Head of Department, who is tasked with consolidating all our sports science support across IIS and our network of centres.

All of these developments make me extremely bullish about India's chances to be a major contender at future global sporting events, and even more sure about the role IIS will play in that journey.

I would be amiss to not mention the tremendous efforts the entire group of IIS coaches, support staff and administration have put in this past year to help us achieve the success we have. It is also due to the continuous support and backing of the JSW Group and our Family of IIS donors that we are able to expand our program and aim for many more moments of sporting glory for India.

On behalf of all IIS athletes, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you all for believing in our vision and being a part of our journey.

Thank you.



# Introduction to the program





## Introduction to the program

The Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) is India's first and biggest privately-funded High Performance Centre for Olympic sports disciplines. Established by the JSW Group in 2017, the IIS is spread over 42 acres of land in Vijayanagara, Karnataka, and is currently home to over 200 talented young athletes scouted from across India. With a focus on 4 core Olympic sports of Athletics, Boxing, Judo and Wrestling, IIS provides its athletes access to world class training infrastructure, coaching and sports science support, in order to allow them to realize their potential and nurturing their talent into medal winning performances for India at global sporting events.

IIS athletes are offered 100% residential scholarships and apart from their training, are also enrolled in an in-house Learning program, offering customized tuition and academic support. The holistic development of athletes is a central pillar at IIS, with coaches and staff actively involved in the athletes' non-sports activities, including life-skills modules, communication & music workshops, social and community development, media training and financial literacy.

Having achieved tremendous success in its first Olympic cycle, IIS is now expanding its efforts through a network of smaller feeder centres. Such centres are already operational in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, along with an extensive aquatics program established in Odisha, and an institute in Manipur slated to begin this year.

What makes IIS unique is its collaborative funding model, which brings together over 30 top domestic and global corporates, who believe in the IIS vision and collectively fund the operations of the institute. These IIS partners allow the institute to offer a sustained world-class high performance daily training environment for the athletes, international exposure for training and competitions and fund the planned expansion to further India's sporting success.

**42**  
Acres of land

**255+**  
Talented athletes

**4**  
Olympic medalists



## Odisha JSW Swimming Grassroots Training Center

With an aim to develop a robust culture for swimming and produce world-class swimmers from the state, JSW Sports in collaboration with the Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha today announced the launch of a comprehensive Grassroot Program. The Grassroots Swimming Program will be rolled out in eight locations in Odisha, under the umbrella of Odisha Government's pact with JSW Sports to create a High-performance Center and provide international standard coaching in the state.

## GIRI Center Hisar

In a one of its kind partnership with the Sports Authority of India, IIS and JSW Sports agreed to develop the infrastructure and facilities at the Giri Center in Hisar, Haryana with the help of SAI, in the Sport of Wrestling and Boxing and Athletics. The Center now has over 130 athletes and it will also serve as a feeder center to the Inspire Institute of Sport.



# Outreach and Impact





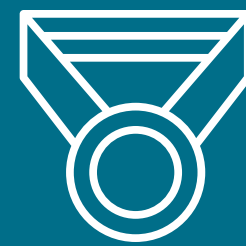
## Outreach and Impact

Through the year gone by, the IIS and its athletes have made successful strides in their respective sports. Our programs, across different Olympic sports, have improved India's standing as a global sporting nation and we're taking a look at some of the key numbers.



# 520+

medals since inception



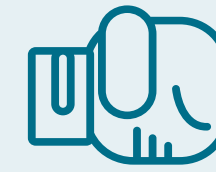
# 95+

medals in FY 2022-23



# 255+

athletes supported at IIS



# 17

As many as 17 boxers have won medals at National or International levels.



# 8

Eight out of 15 medals won by the Judo Team at IIS were Gold.



# 27

The Athletics Team at IIS picked up 27 Gold medals, four of which belonged to Neeraj Chopra, one of which was at the Olympic Games. A watershed moment!



# 42

42 IIS Wrestlers have brought back a total of 56 medals, including 15 Gold medals. 17 of the total medals were won in International competitions.



# 3

Linthoi Chanambam won the most medals of any Judoka in the year gone by. The sixteen-year-old won Gold, Silver and Bronze.



# 3

Hurdler Tejas Shirse picked up Gold at three competitions, the Junior Federation Cup, Open National Championships and U23 National Championships.



# Highlights from 2022





## The waves we made; moments from 2022 that inspired us at IIS



The Financial Year 2021-22 Proved To Be A Fantastic Year For Team IIS, With Several Athletes Raising The Bar, And As Many As Ten Of Them Heading To The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Here Are The Moments That Had The World Sit Up And Take Note Of Our Little Village Of Warriors In Vijayanagara...

The Inspire Institute of Sport had three Boxers at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in Ashish Kumar (75kg), Satish Kumar (91kg) and Vikas Krishan Yadav (69kg). Ashish was also named in Team India's Commonwealth Games contingent.

Elsewhere, Simran Verma (48kg) picked up Gold in the National Championships and Silver at the ASBC Asian Youth and Junior Boxing Championships, held in Dubai. 21-year-old Nishant Dev had a breakthrough season himself, being named Senior National Champion in 2021 and following it up with a run to the quarterfinal at the 2021 World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia.

2021-22 also proved a fantastic year for Sanjeet Kumar (91 kg), who was named the 2021 Senior and Asian National Champion, while also making his way into the quarterfinal alongside Nishant at the World Championships in Serbia.

In one of the biggest highlights since its inception, India's only Judoka at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, Sushila Devi Likmabam, came from the Institute's Judo Program.

Perhaps the Institute's most spoken about achievements came on the Track and Field as several athletes raised the bar across disciplines. He's been spoken about more than most, and Neeraj Chopra rightly deserves to top this list. The 24-year-old followed up on his Gold medals at the Karlstad Grand Prix and Lisbon City Meet with a top of the podium finish at the Olympics, the country's first ever medal in Athletics, at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

And while Neeraj's stock continues to rise, there are several others who have worked their way up and raised the bar in their own disciplines. Chief among them is sprinter Priya Mohan, whose big break came at the World U20 Championships in Nairobi, where she picked up Bronze. Priya went on to win Gold at the Federation Cup of 2022 and at the All India Inter-University Games.

Long Jumper Jeswin Aldrin's big break came at the Senior Federation Cup, where he jumped a massive 8.37m to pick up Gold ahead of Sreeshankar Murali. With his jump of 7.97m, Jeswin had earlier claimed the Junior National Record in 2021.

Sreeshankar, who made the trip to Tokyo 2020 but could only manage a jump of 7.69m, finishing 13th in his Group, has since upped the ante, claiming the Senior National Record with a jump of 8.36m. Sreeshankar's effort, recorded at the Federation Cup, is the second longest in the world for the year 2022.

The Judo arena at the Institute became home to a national champion when Linthoi Chanambam picked up Gold at the Sub-Junior National Judo Championships. Linthoi also picked up Bronze at the Cadet Asian Championships, and Silver at the Junior Asian Championships. Unnati Sharma, who has been at the IIS since 2018, was also a Silver medalist at the Junior Asian Championships and rounded her year off with Gold at the All India Inter-University Championships.



## The waves we made; moments from 2022 that inspired us at IIS

Following up on the heroics of Judokas at the IIS were Ishroop Narang and Sheetal, who were both named National Cadet Champions for 2021. While Ishroop won Bronze at the Junior Asian Championships in 2021, Sheetal was a Bronze medalist at the Cadet Asian Championships at 2021.

On the wrestling mat, the IIS' biggest achievement came through Bajrang Punia, who picked up Bronze at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. His 8-0 defeat of Kazakhstani wrestler Daulet Niyazbekov gave India its sixth medal of the Games on the very last day. Bajrang also picked up Silver at the Asian Wrestling Championships later in 2022.

Following extensive rehabilitation at the IIS, Rio 2016 Bronze medalist Sakshi Malik picked up Silver at the Asian Championships of 2021.

The wrestlers at the Inspire Institute of Sport were on a roll in 2021-22, with Sonika Hooda, Komal and Nisha Dahiya picking up accolades in India and abroad. While Sonika picked up Bronze at the Dan Kolov Tournament in Bulgaria, she won Gold at the National Senior RankingT Tournament later in 2022. Sonika had also picked up Bronze at the U23 National Championships.

Komal, who was a World Champion in 2019, was named Cadet World Champion of 2021 along with the National Champion title in the same year. Radhika also won Bronze at the Dan Kolov tournament in 2022, following up on Bronze at the U23 World Championships of 2021. At the National Senior Ranking of 2022, she found herself atop the podium.

The IIS saw more global recognition when Aman Gulia was named Cadet World Champion of 2021, and Gourav Baliyan was named National Champion the same year. Baliyan followed it up with Bronze at the Junior World Championships of 2021 and Silver at the Dan Kolov Tournament in Bulgaria, in 2022.

Rounding up the wrestling team's achievements at the IIS are Jaskaran Dhaliwal and Nisha Dahiya. While Jaskaran picked up Silver at the Cadet World Championships in 2021, Nisha won Bronze at the 2021 U23 World Championships and followed it up with U23 and Senior National victories the same year.



# The stars of Tokyo





## The stars of Tokyo



### An entire galaxy of stars, and one podium for them all.

In September, the IIS welcomed India's medal-winning champions of Tokyo to Bellary. What followed was an unforgettable day where the story behind every triumph was recalled, and the promise of a future with more moments on the podium was made...

The combat hall at the Inspire Institute of Sport had been stripped bare of all its rings and mats. There was not a single sign of skirmish, hostility or fight. The air was welcoming, not intimidating. All the battles had been fought, and now was the time to recognise and applaud those who returned victors.

The IIS was 'Honouring The Titans of Tokyo', and we made sure no stone was left unturned in our bid to give these medal-winning heroes, the homecoming they deserved. Neeraj Chopra, Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and PR Sreejesh - one by one, they all descended on the tarmac at Vijayanagara, with their Olympic jewellery in tow. The women - Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain and PV Sindhu may not have been able to make the event, yet, there was enough evidence at every turn of the road to remind everyone of the magnitude of what the weightlifter, the boxer and the shuttler had achieved.

In attendance were a mix of people, all of whom had a piece of their heart joined to a some portion of those medals. Donors who had backed the IIS's cause long before the flame was lit in Tokyo, coaches and support staff who were heroes behind the scenes, fellow-athletes who turned fans through the Games, journalists who had covered every move of these champions in the build-up to the big dance and dozens of star-struck junior athletes pinching themselves in disbelief.

The winners were recognised, honoured and rewarded, as were the staff responsible for their success. Anecdotes were shared and the highlights reel on an enormous screen drew lumps in throats of everyone present. It was a homecoming that these champions deserved, and one that we needed



## IIS Felicitation

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At JSW we've always believed that the nation comes first. Even when we started building the steel plant in Bellary, our aim was to make it one of India's biggest, and now we are going beyond to make it one of the best in the world. Similarly, with sport, our aim was to compete at the international level. But when we decided to build IIS, there was the question at the back of our minds, of how our Indian athletes would be able to compete against athletes from countries with a naturally better physique. But today, Neeraj, Bajrang, and all of our athletes have proved to the world that Indians can be world leaders in sport too.

Looking back in time, the power of nations was determined by the strength of their military, and later, by the economic GDP. But today, medals at the Olympic Games have also become a marker for successful nations. I have no doubt that in the next few years, India will be counted as a major sporting nation.

The steel landscape has changed here and now the world of sports is changing here. I've always known that this land – Bellary, and the land of Vijayanagar is a very fortunate land. Whatever we set on to do here, we are successful with it, and I mean it.

Sajjan Jindal  
Chairman and MD, JSW Group





## IIS Felicitation

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Our aim and ambition at IIS is to be the catalyst, and uplift the standard of Indian sport, champion the use of sports science and be the beacon that every facility looks at as the gold standard. In such a short time we have achieved 3 medals at the Olympics, 10 of our athletes qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, and we at IIS have a target of 25 qualifiers and at least 7 medals at the Paris Olympics. We want to work along with the federations and the Government to make it a win-win, because our aim and desire is to hear Jana Gana Mana on repeat at the Olympics, and create many more Neeraj Chopras.

With the IIS, we are now trying to spread our wings across the country. We are now moving into Haryana with the Giri center and we have already moved into Himachal Pradesh with our centers in Karcham and Sangla. We are introducing a swimming programme in Odisha. There are thoughts of adding fencing and weightlifting to our programme. This is just the start. We will think bigger and dream bigger.

Parth Jindal  
Founder, IIS





## IIS Felicitation

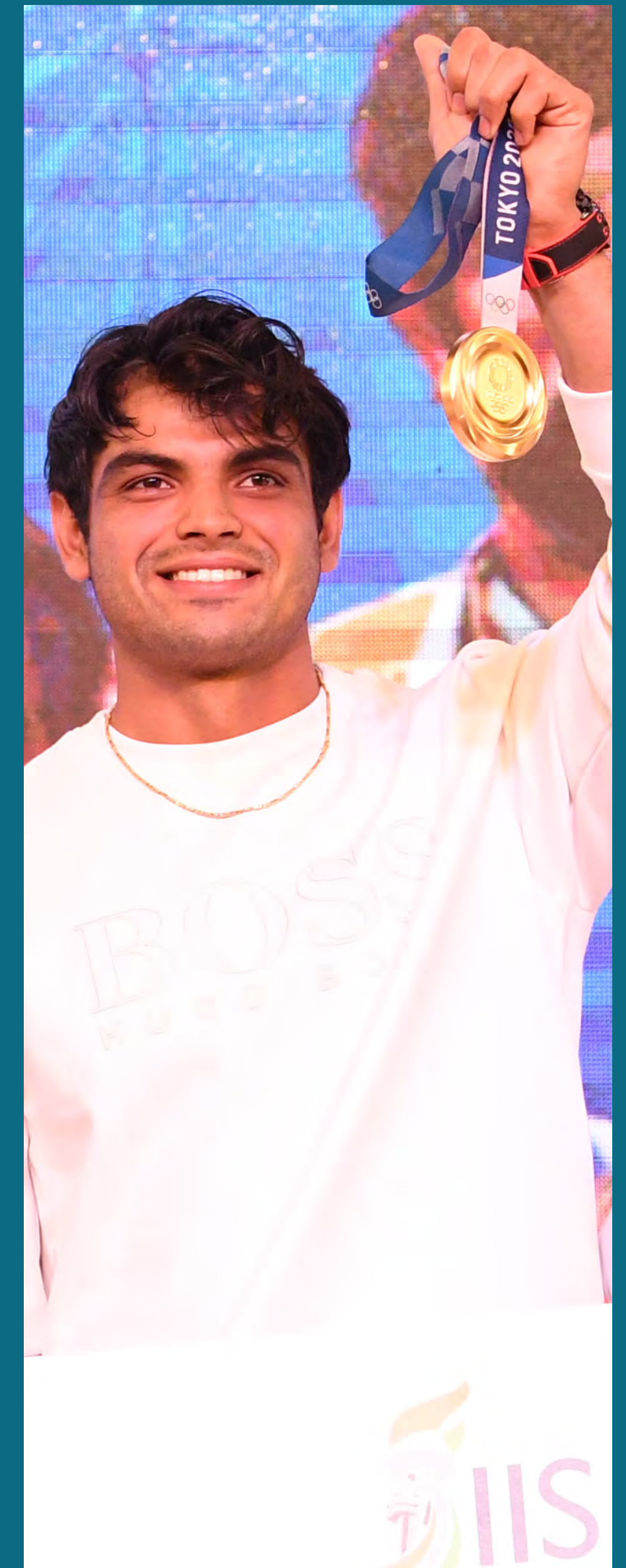
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I've noticed that we Indian athletes work hard physically but lag behind when it comes to mental training. We always think that the Olympics is such a big tournament and all the big players come there, and are scared of our performance.

But after winning this Gold, I feel our success is realistic. Even before my performance I never thought that I would win a Gold. I only focused on giving my best. Now I'm confident that in the upcoming World Championships and Olympics, the Indian sports scene is going to change for the better.

An athlete's life is very short and this is the time to make it big. I'll cherish the medal, hang it on the wall, and will start my preparation for my next tournament. If I keep celebrating this medal then I won't be able to give my best for the future. I've won the Asian gold, and the Olympic gold and am yet to win the World Championship, but I believe that our journey doesn't end with these wins. Holding these titles for years is the biggest win according to me.

Neeraj Chopra  
Gold, Javelin





## IIS Felicitation

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I was upset about the injury and specifically because of its timing. My coach has always taught me that anything can be achieved through hard work, and that people were expecting a medal from an athlete only if they believed in them. I had worked all my life for this one medal and my only aim was to give my best.

I'm also extremely thankful to my doctor for being there with me throughout and helping me recover faster. I knew how important this opportunity was for me. I didn't know if I'd ever get it again, so I just gave my everything and was ready for whatever the result would be. I would be ok if that would be my last match or if I'd have to get surgery, I just had to give my best.

Bajrang Punia  
Bronze, Wrestling





## IIS Felicitation

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After the Germans were awarded the penalty corner, we had 40seconds to prepare and It was my job to form a strategy with the defenders based on the movement of the German players. I had to be prepared for all the possibilities. For 21 years I have been a goalkeeper, and it all came down to that one save and I did it. At that point, we were happy that we won the medal but we really felt the impact only after coming back to India.

PR Sreejesh  
Bronze, Hockey





## IIS Felicitation

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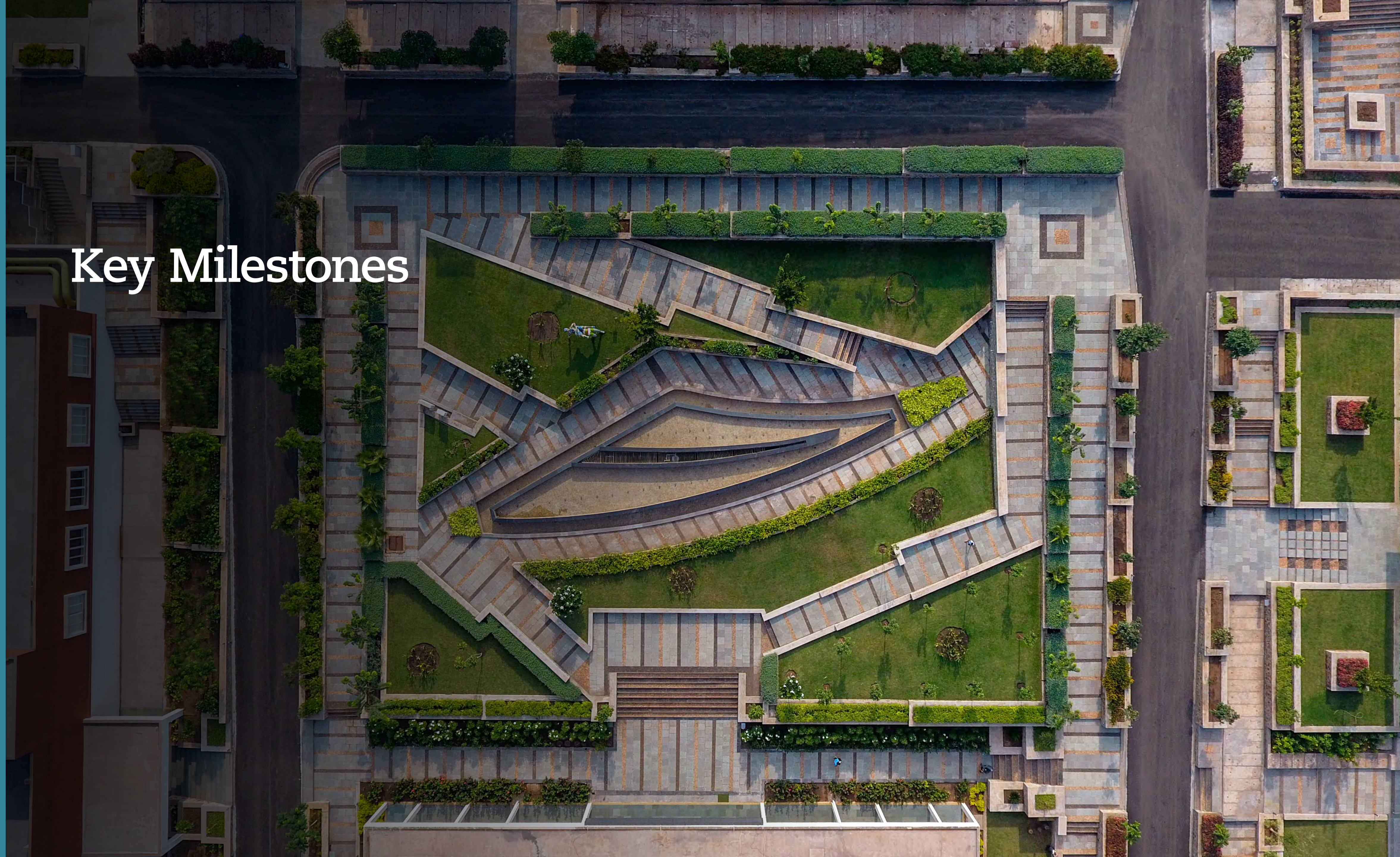
In a wrestling match, anyone can have the upper hand, and that day my opponent had the upper hand and his points were higher. While training a lot of times we practice how to deal with such situations so, at that point, I just wanted to execute what I had practiced and give my best. I just told myself to push until the last second no matter what the result would be. I don't believe in pressure, and it helped me that day.

Ravi Dahiya  
Silver, Wrestling





# Key Milestones





# Moments that mattered; 10 milestones that inspired us at IIS

Through The Year, The Institute Forged Associations And Its Athletes Made Moves That Put Indian Sport In Good Stead. We've Picked Out The Ones That Meant The Most...

## 2021

### April

#### April 2021

As part of its continuous efforts to empower coaches with the best learning, the Inspire Institute of Sport hosted the Australian Strength and Conditioning Association (ASCA) Level 1 course at the facility. The course featured technical aspects of Strength and Conditioning that allowed the coaches to complete the certification and learn more about the importance of S&C in high performance.

#### April 2021

Exposure trips enhance an athlete's understanding of acclimatisation and for this reason, as many as four Track and Field athletes from the Inspire Institute of Sport made their way to France for a six-week training-cum-competition camp. Long Jumper Jeswin Aldrin, Triple Jumper Praveen Chithravel and hurdlers Unnathi Aiyappa and Tejas Shirse were part of the Team IIS contingent that flew across the border for the exposure tour.

#### May 2021

The JSW Sports owned Kabaddi team, Haryana Steelers held their pre-season training camp, ahead of the 2021 Pro Kabaddi League season, at the facilities of the Inspire Institute of Sport. Through their stay at the facilities, the Steelers were able to reach an optimum level of performance ahead of their competition season.

#### October 2021

In a landmark moment for the Judo department, the Inspire Institute of Sport signed a long-term agreement with the Judo Federation of India to serve as its High Performance partner. Through the partnership, several of India's top Judokas will make the institute their home, and train themselves under the auspices of some of the world's finest coaches, with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities.

#### September 2021

As part of our continual efforts to make the IIS facilities available to the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), the Institute hosted the Elite Men's National Boxing Championships in September, where over 600 boxers from across the country were present.

#### September 2021

Following their historic show at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the Inspire Institute of Sport came together to felicitate 'Tokyo's Titans' at the facility, in September. The event had Neeraj Chopra, Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and PR Sreejesh in attendance, to recognise and reward India's best ever performance at an Olympic Games.



## Moments that mattered; 10 milestones that inspired us at IIS



### November 2021

For his show at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Neeraj Chopra was awarded the Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna award while 2018 Asian Games gold medalist Arpinder Singh received the Arjuna Award by Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

### November 2021

The Inspire Institute of Sport organised a month-long high-altitude training camp in Ooty for its track and field athletes, many of whom would go on to win medals in the following Inter-state National Championships, held in Chennai.

### January 2022

It's not all about sport! There were milestones we reached on the study table as several athletes from the Institute successfully completed an English Communication Module that was executed by the Academic Department. As part of our attempts to create an environment for holistic development, the IIS continues to impart training as well as education to all its athletes.

### March 2022

As many as ten female boxers from the Institute, along with Head of Youth Development in Boxing, John Warburton, went on an 18-day training and competition camp in the UK. Through the trip, the boxers were able to challenge themselves against several Olympic medalists. The trip served as a learning curve for the boxers, many of whom are medal prospects on the global stage already.

# 2022

## March



# Social Impact





## Beyond the sport

The Inspire Institute of Sport isn't about just the hard yards, competition and podiums. Of course, glory on the big stage is what drives the program and every single athlete who is a part of it, but there is a bigger picture, a greater impact that the IIS desires to leave along the way. We aren't just shaping athletes, we're shaping people.

It is no secret how big a tool sport is when it comes to bringing about social change, and in the recent past, its importance has only been further underlined. The UNICEF's programme 'Sports For Development' (S4D) harnesses the power of sport to achieve critical outcomes in the fields of health, learning, empowerment and protection.

In the Indian context, sports can be used effectively to increase attendance in school, facilitate re-enrolment of drop outs and improve language and communication skills to arm them for a future beyond sport.

Along with preparing our athletes for success on global sporting stages, we at the IIS, are also focussed on their holistic development. Ours has been a 360 degree approach to training and preparing our athletes, and the results have been beyond just encouraging. Given our penchant for backing facts with stats, we had an external agency conduct a study with the athletes at the IIS to determine the success of our interventions beyond the sport.

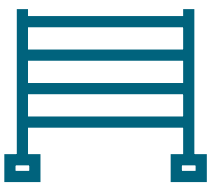
“

In the initial phase, we as educators had to push athletes to study. They were of the belief that as sportspersons, education is not going to benefit them. Over the last three years, this has changed. Now those athletes are invested in their education and prioritize it too.”

- A teacher at the IIS Academic Centre

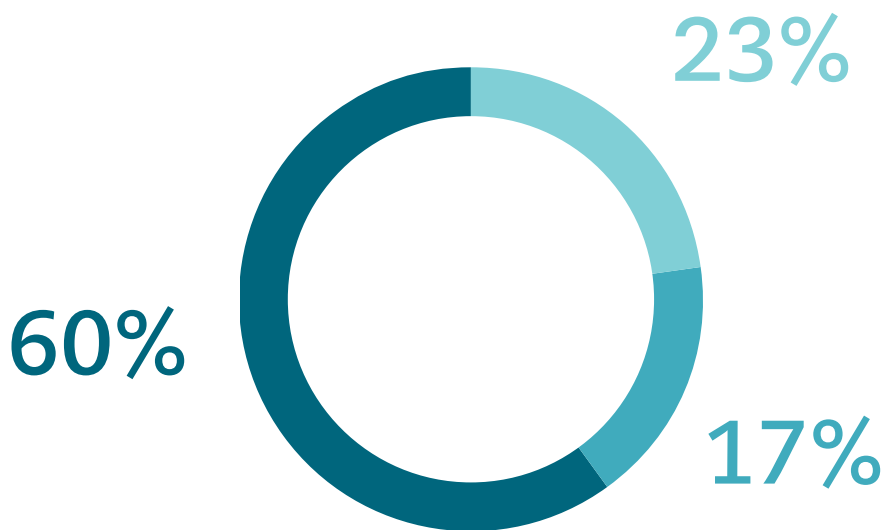


# Beyond the sport

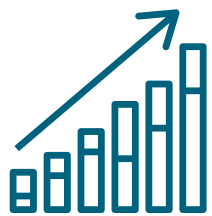


## Jumping over hurdles

Interventions by the IIS in key social areas have played a big role in altering the performances of the athletes for the better. Among the list of social barriers that the athletes faced prior to joining the IIS, a lack of proper schooling and education seemed to be up on the list with **23%** of the athletes citing

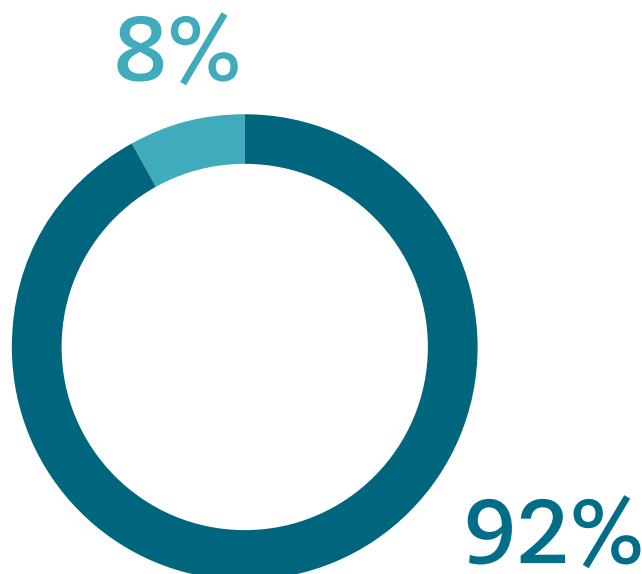


pressure to attend school. Family restrictions with respect to traveling for tournaments (**17%**) was a close second. With regard to the female athletes, most of them felt it was a challenge to convince their families that sport had a future for them, and needed to be taken seriously.

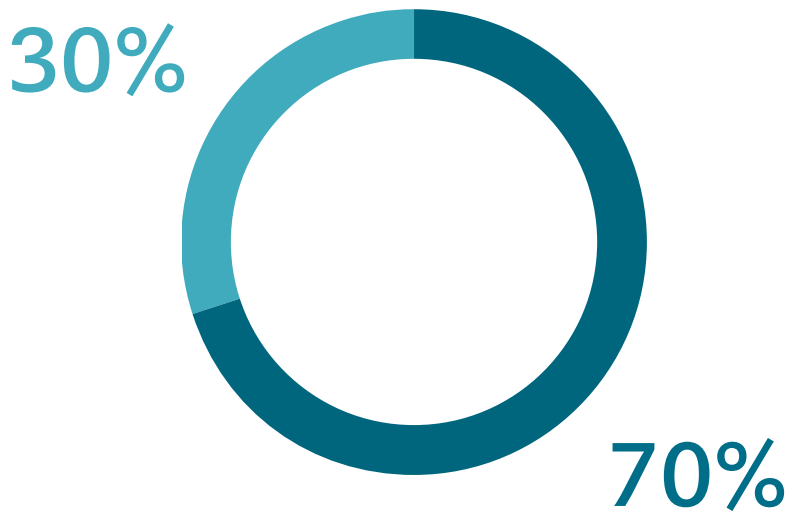


## Key Stats

**92%** sportspersons reported that the academic support has helped them strike a balance between sports training and academics



It was found that most of the athletes realised the importance of education only after joining the IIS. A staggering **70% athletes** believed that education has a completely different level of importance for them after being introduced to the academic programmes run at the IIS.



At the time of inception in 2017, the IIS’s academic intervention comprised external tutors coming in each day to help the athletes with academic and life skills interventions. However, gauging the amount of support the athletes needed on this front, as well as predicting the potential success of this programme, the IIS introduced an in-house Academic Centre with full-time teachers. Needless to say, the move has had a tremendous positive impact on the athletes.



## Beyond the sport



### How the academic programme works

The academic intervention at IIS is designed to help sportspersons balance their academics with the rigorous sports training they undergo. The sportspersons come from different educational backgrounds and are registered across respective state boards, Central Board for Secondary Education (CBSE) or National Institute for Open Schooling (NIOS).

The academic team caters to each student's curriculum across all subjects while also focusing on their language and soft skills through a communications module. IIS now has partnerships with CBSE schools where the athletes are registered while they study and train at IIS.



### Perception in the community

While most athletes said they had the support of their immediate family and communities when it came to pursuing sport professionally, qualitative findings suggested otherwise. Parents of athletes said they faced backlash from their extended family and community for encouraging their children to take up sport professionally.

However, they have cited a change in this behaviour after the children began winning medals and garnering success on national and international stages.

The community members of Sakshi Malik's village in Rohtak, Haryana reported that her success has changed their perception about the abilities of females and has also encouraged other girls in the village to take up sport



## Beyond the sport



### The IIS and sustainable development goals

The IIS's work is aligned to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) programme in a big way, and contributes to 6 of the 17 SDGs laid out by the UN.



# Case Studies





## From small towns with big dreams

The IIS Is Home To Several Young Athletes Who Arrived With A Dream To Realize Their Potential Within The Walls Of The Institute. We're Profiling Four Such Youngsters Who Are Now Ready To Make The Big Step Up...





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# Academics





## Blood, sweat, tears and books; the Academic Program at IIS

It Is An Institute For Sport And High Performance, But In Between The Hard Yards Is A Curriculum In Place For India's Next Generation Of Athletes To Make The Most Of Their Minds...

At 9 am, boxer Simran Verma's first session in the Kotak Karma Contact Sports Centre was drawn to a close. The cool-down is quick, because she has to be in class only 45 minutes later. The gloves are swapped for books, and the jabs and blocks are replaced by questions and answers.

"Over the last five years, over 250 athletes have come through the doors of the Institute, and we are glad to say that more than 72% of them completed at least one year of education within these walls," says Aparna Sen, Head of Academics at the IIS.

While the importance of sport in education has often been overlooked, at an Institute that looks to breed Olympic champions, it may have been the aspect of education that takes the backseat. But, that isn't the case. At the IIS, equal emphasis is given to academics, with athletes being taught the importance of a sound education.



"A massive part of being an athlete means sacrificing your growing years to focusing more on sport. But at the IIS, it is drilled into each athlete that their careers are short compared to the lives they must live after that. For that very reason, we want to make sure that while every athlete is given the best opportunity to excel in sport, they also receive an education that will come to their benefit at a more definitive level," opines IIS CEO, Rushdee Warley.

Like Simran, several other athletes at the Institute shuffle classes and training sessions on a daily basis. It has become routine, with a split focus for education giving them the ability to organize tasks, manage time, make use of off days, and most importantly, gain an experience and merit that other sporting institutions may not have offered them.



## Blood, sweat, tears and books; the Academic Program at IIS

It Is An Institute For Sport And High Performance, But In Between The Hard Yards Is A Curriculum In Place For India's Next Generation Of Athletes To Make The Most Of Their Minds...



“The importance of education cannot be overlooked. I finished my 12th standard exams this year, and I did it hand in hand with sport; something that may not have been possible if it was not for the IIS. The athletes that come here would earlier spend hours commuting to the stadium, to the gym, to the pool. Here, everything's a short walk away for all of us, and that makes it really easy to balance our dreams to become an athlete, and to pursue academics,” says Simran, who managed a 57.83 percentile in her board exams.

Sen, who joined as the Institute's Head of Academics six months ago, says that several new projects are in the pipeline, with the IIS looking to provide various online courses to its athletes that are completing schooling, but continue their journey towards Olympic glory.

“Many of our athletes complete their schooling and pursue an online college graduate program, some of them are eager to learn the business side of sport and we want to make these courses more accessible to them. We're looking to build associations that will further our athletes' interests with regards to education.”





# Financial Overview





# Financial Overview

FY 2021-2022

(Audited) (Amount in Crs.)									
Expense Heads	Boxing	Wrestling	Judo	Athlectics	Fencing	Shooting	Weightlifting	Swimming	Total
Technical Coaches Professional Fees	0.63	1.02	0.36	0.25	0	0	0	0.45	2.72
Stipends	0.35	0.74	0.04	0.26	0	0	0	0.01	1.41
Sports Science, Physiologist & Physiotherapist, Athlete Management & other Professional Fees	1.29	1.50	1.14	0.87	0	0	0	0	4.80
Travel & Conveyance	1.04	0.84	0.53	1.43	0	0	0	0.04	3.88
Meals & Nutrition	0.91	1.08	0.76	0.62	0	0	0	0	3.37
Insurance	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.05	0	0	0	0	0.27
Education, Apparel, Training, Technical Equipments & Medical Services	1.01	1.23	0.76	1.16	0	0	0	0.06	4.21
Educators Professional Fees	0.09	0.10	0.08	0.06	0	0	0	0	0.33
Operational Expenses	0.25	0.29	0.22	0.17	0	0	0	0	0.91
Contribution to National Sports Federations	0	1.50	0	0	0.50	0	0	0	2.00
Facilities Maintenance & Security Expenses	0.71	0.82	0.63	0.48	0	0	0	0	2.63
Facilities Rent & Usage Charges	0.66	0.77	0.58	0.44	0	0	0	0	2.45
National Championship Events	0.82	0.11	0.08	0.06	0	0	0	0	1.08
Capex Equipments	0.10	0.12	0.31	0.07	0	0	0	0	0.61
Total	7.94	10.20	5.57	5.92	0.50	0	0	0.55	30.68



# Donors and Partners





# Donors and Partners

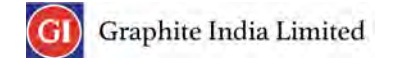
Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze



Patrons





# Donor Testimonials



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2020



## Donor Testimonials









