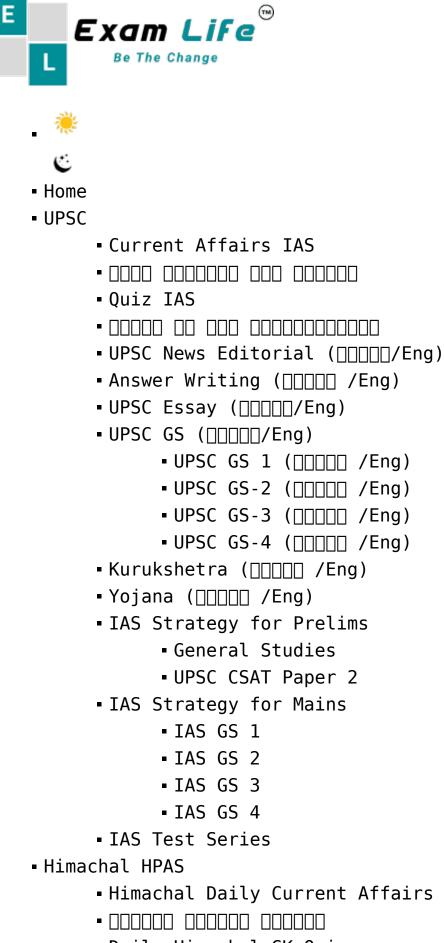
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Topics Covered

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- Summary:
- What is the news?
 - Bhaker's Pioneering Double: A Nation Celebrates
 - Beyond Individual Glory: Inspiring a Generation
 - A Look Back: The Complexities of Olympic History
 - A Defining Moment for Indian Sports
 - Conclusion: A Stepping Stone to Future Glory

• Important:

- The Olympics: A Global Celebration of Sport
 - History and Evolution
 - Significance of the Olympics
 - The Symbolism of the Five Rings in the Olympic Logo
 - Paris Olympics 2024: A New Era
 - Key Highlights
 - Venues and Events
 - Conclusion
 - QuizTime:
 - Are you Ready!
- Read the Below Instructions Carefully:
 - Please Rate!
- Mains Questions:
 - Question 1:

- Model Answer:
- Question 2:
- Model Answer:
- Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:
- Prelims:
- Mains:

Summary:

- Historic Feat: Manu Bhaker, an Indian athlete, secured two medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics, etching her name in Indian sports history.
- First Indian Woman Shooter: Bhaker's bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event marked the first time an Indian woman shooter stood on an Olympic podium.
- Double Feat: Bhaker also won a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event, becoming the first independent India athlete to achieve this double feat.
- Inspiration for Future Generations: Her success story serves as a beacon of inspiration for young shooters, particularly girls, dreaming of excellence in the sport.

What is the news?

 The 2024 Paris Olympics witnessed a phenomenal feat by a young Indian athlete, Manu Bhaker. Bhaker not only bagged one, but two medals, scripting her name forever in the golden book of Indian sports history. This achievement deserves a closer look, not just for the glory it brings but also for the legacy it builds upon and the aspirations it ignites.

Bhaker's Pioneering Double: A Nation Celebrates

 Bhaker's first medal, a bronze in the women's 10m air pistol event, was a historic moment in itself. It marked the first time an Indian woman shooter had ever stood on an Olympic podium. This accomplishment is a testament to the growing strength of Indian women athletes and their increasing presence on the international sporting stage.

Beyond Individual Glory: Inspiring a Generation

 Bhaker's ambition, however, extended far beyond a single medal. Partnering with Sarabjot Singh, she went on to secure another bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event. This remarkable double feat cemented her place in history as the first independent India athlete to achieve such a feat.

A Look Back: The Complexities of Olympic History

 History, however, is often woven with intricate threads. While Bhaker's accomplishment is undeniably groundbreaking, it's important to acknowledge the story of Norman Pritchard. At the 1900 Paris Olympics, Pritchard, competing for India, won two silver medals in athletics. However, his nationality remains a point of debate, with some arguing that he should be considered British.

A Defining Moment for Indian Sports

Regardless of this historical debate, Bhaker's achievement signifies a clear shift within independent India. It's a culmination of dedicated training programs, improved infrastructure, and the unwavering determination of Indian athletes. Bhaker's success story will undoubtedly serve as a beacon of inspiration for countless young shooters, particularly young girls, who dream of achieving excellence in the sport.

Conclusion: A Stepping Stone to Future Glory

Manu Bhaker's double Olympic medal is much more

than an individual triumph; it's a potent symbol of a nation's growing sporting prowess. It's a powerful message that with unwavering focus and relentless hard work, even the most ambitious goals can be realized. Let us celebrate this historic moment and gear up to witness even greater feats from Indian athletes in the years to come.

 This elaborated editorial provides a more nuanced perspective on Bhaker's achievement, delving into its historical significance and its potential to inspire future generations of athletes.

Important:

- This was India's sixth Olympic medal in shooting and first-ever in a shooting team event. The result also made Manu Bhaker the first athlete of independent India to win two medals in one edition of the Olympics.
- While Manu Bhaker is indeed the first Indian athlete to win two medals in the same Olympics post-independence, but India has won two shooting medals at a single Olympics before.
- London 2012: Vijay Kumar won silver in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol, and Gagan Narang won bronze in the men's 10m air rifle.
- Therefore, while Manu Bhaker's achievement is historic in terms of being the first Indian athlete (post-independence) to win two medals in a single Olympics, it's not the first time India has won two shooting medals in a single Olympics.

The Olympics: A Global Celebration of Sport

 The Olympics, a grand event held every four years, bring together the world's best athletes to compete in a spirit of excellence, friendship, and respect. From its ancient origins in Greece to its modern incarnation, the Olympics symbolize unity and the pursuit of personal and collective achievements.



(Pic:google img)

History and Evolution

• The Olympics began in ancient Greece, with records dating back to 776 BC. These games were held in

Olympia and were integral to Greek culture. The modern Olympics, revived in 1896 by Pierre de Coubertin, started in Athens, reflecting a global aspiration for unity and sporting excellence. The Olympic Games have since evolved, growing in scale and scope, incorporating new sports and increasing participation from countries worldwide.

Significance of the Olympics

The Olympics are more than just a sporting event. They represent:

- Global Unity: Bringing together athletes from over 200 nations, the Olympics promote peace and understanding.
- Cultural Exchange: Athletes and spectators experience diverse cultures, fostering mutual respect and learning.
- Personal Achievement: Athletes strive to break records and achieve personal bests, embodying the Olympic motto, "Citius, Altius, Fortius" (Faster, Higher, Stronger).

The Symbolism of the Five Rings in the Olympic Logo

• The Olympic logo, featuring five interlocking

rings, is one of the most recognized symbols in the world. Designed by Pierre de Coubertin in 1913, the rings represent the union of the five inhabited continents — Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania — and the meeting of athletes from around the world at the Olympic Games.

 The colors of the rings – blue, yellow, black, green, and red – along with the white background, were chosen because at least one of these colors appears on every national flag in the world, symbolizing universal unity and inclusiveness.

Paris Olympics 2024: A New Era

 The Paris Olympics 2024 promise to be a landmark event, blending tradition with innovation and emphasizing sustainability and inclusivity.

Key Highlights

- Sustainability: Paris 2024 aims to be the greenest Olympics yet, with a focus on reducing carbon emissions and using existing and temporary venues.
- Inclusivity: New sports like breakdancing will debut, reflecting the dynamic and inclusive nature of the Games.
- Technology: Advanced technologies will enhance athlete performance and spectator experience, including virtual reality and AI-driven analytics.

Venues and Events

The Games will take place across iconic Parisian landmarks, including:

- Stade de France: Hosting the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as athletics events.
- Champs-Élysées: Venue for road cycling and marathon.
- Seine River: Water sports, such as rowing and triathlon, will take place along this historic river.

Conclusion

- The Paris Olympics 2024 symbolize a blend of tradition and innovation, showcasing the best of global athleticism while promoting sustainability and inclusivity. As the world looks forward to this grand event, the spirit of the Olympics continues to inspire athletes and spectators alike, fostering a sense of unity and shared human endeavor.
- The Olympic Games remain a powerful reminder of what humanity can achieve through dedication, perseverance, and cooperation. As we anticipate the Paris Olympics 2024, we celebrate the enduring legacy of the Olympic spirit and its profound impact on global culture and sports.





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- Scroll down Check out Solutions too.
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When was the only other time Indian shooters won two medals in shooting at a single edition of the Olympics before Manu Bhaker's achievement?

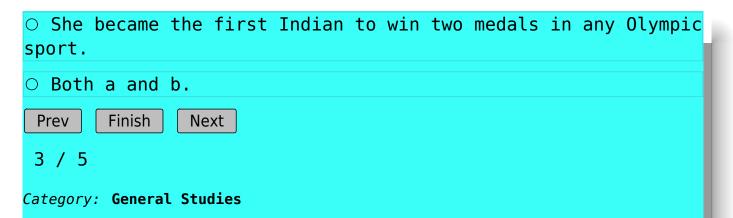
○ Beijing 2008
O London 2012
O Rio 2016
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Which of the following statements is correct regarding Manu Bhaker's achievement at the Paris Olympics 2024?

 She became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting.

 She became the first Indian athlete to win two medals in a single Olympics post-independence.



Who was the first athlete, historically debated as British or Indian, to win two medals in a single Olympics before Manu Bhaker?



The achievement of Manu Bhaker can be seen as a symbol of:



Which of the following is NOT a reason for the increasing success of Indian athletes on the global stage?
 Improved infrastructure for sports training.
O Increased government funding for sports development.
\odot A decline in the popularity of traditional sports in India.
\odot Growing emphasis on sports education and training.
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Mains Questions:



Question 1:

Discuss the significance of Manu Bhaker's achievements at the 2024 Paris Olympics for Indian sports. How do her accomplishments reflect the evolution of India's presence in international sports?(250 Words)

Model Answer:

 Manu Bhaker's achievements at the 2024 Paris Olympics, where she became the first Indian athlete post-Independence to win two medals in a single Olympic Games, mark a significant milestone for Indian sports. Securing a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event and becoming the first Indian female shooter to win an Olympic medal, Bhaker has set a new standard for Indian athletes.

Significance:

• Inspirational Milestone: Bhaker's success serves

as an inspiration for young athletes, particularly female shooters, demonstrating that with dedication and hard work, Olympic glory is attainable.

- Global Recognition: Her achievements enhance India's reputation in the international sports arena, showcasing the country's growing competitiveness and talent.
- Promotion of Shooting Sports: Bhaker's victories will likely encourage more investment in shooting sports, improving infrastructure, training, and support for aspiring shooters.

Reflection of Evolution:

- Increased Competitiveness: Bhaker's success reflects India's increased competitiveness in global sports, a shift from being mere participants to serious contenders.
- Focus on Women's Sports: Her accomplishments highlight the rise of female athletes in India, supported by policies and initiatives aimed at promoting women's participation in sports.
- Enhanced Training Programs: The results are a testament to improved training programs, coaching, and facilities that have developed in India over recent years, contributing to better performances at international events.
- Bhaker's achievements symbolize the potential and talent present in Indian sports, indicating a promising future and a more prominent role for India in the global sports community.

Question 2:

How has the representation of women in Indian sports evolved over the years? Discuss the challenges faced by women athletes in India and suggest measures to overcome them.(250 Words)

Model Answer:

- The landscape of women's sports in India has undergone a remarkable transformation. Athletes like Saina Nehwal, PV Sindhu, and now Manu Bhaker have shattered glass ceilings and inspired generations of young girls. However, the journey has been fraught with challenges. Societal biases, which often prioritize boys over girls, have limited opportunities for women in sports. Lack of adequate sports infrastructure, especially in rural areas, has further hindered their progress. Moreover, issues of safety and security have been major concerns for women athletes.
- To address these challenges, a multi-pronged approach is required. Government policies should focus on creating equal opportunities for girls in sports, including scholarships, coaching, and infrastructure. Awareness campaigns should be launched to challenge gender stereotypes and promote women's participation in sports. Safe and inclusive sports environments must be created to ensure the well-being of women athletes.
- Additionally, mentorship programs can provide guidance and support to young female athletes. By

investing in women's sports, India can not only empower women but also enhance its overall sporting prowess.

Remember: These are just sample answers. It's important to further research and refine your responses based on your own understanding and perspective. Read entire UPSC Current Affairs.

Relevance to the UPSC Prelims and Mains syllabus under the following topics:



Prelims:

 The UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination evaluates a candidate's general awareness and understanding of current events, sports achievements, and their historical context. The achievements of Manu Bhaker at the Paris Olympics can be included in:Current Events of National and International Importance: Understanding recent significant achievements by Indian athletes on the global stage.

Mains:

 General Studies Paper I:Modern Indian History: Key events, achievements, and personalities related to Indian sports history.

Society: Role of sports in societal development, including the promotion of women in sports.**General Studies Paper II**:Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice, and International Relations:

Role of government and institutions in promoting sports.

Impact of sports on national integration and international diplomacy.**General Studies Paper III:**Technology, Economic Development, Biodiversity, Environment, Security, and Disaster Management:

Development in sports technology and infrastructure.

Impact of international sporting events on economic development.

General Studies Paper IV:

Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude: Ethics in sports, including fair play, gender equality, and sportsmanship.

Inspirational stories of athletes and their impact on national morale and ethical values.







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