



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE
UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service



INDIA'S SPORTING GLORY

A JOURNEY IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Sports draw many parallels to life itself; the courage, resilience, and camaraderie on the field reflect how we navigate life. As a sportsperson, the lessons I have learnt on the field have motivated me to push my limits, take on challenges, and strive for success. Polo taught me to face challenges with courage and to trust my teammates, while Skeet Shooting taught me the importance of staying true to my aim to achieve the target.

At O.P. Jindal Global University, we strongly believe that both academia and sports require diligence, passion, perseverance, and purpose. In our pursuit of sporting excellence, our world-class Sports Academy is a pantheon for champions, integrating state-of-the-art infrastructure with an unwavering commitment to promoting sports and fitness as a way of life.

I hope that this edition of the calendar serves as a reminder that true success isn't measured in trophies, but in the will to show up no matter the outcome.

Mr. Naveen Jindal

Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

When independent India began its tryst with destiny in 1947, India was determined to rise as a democratic republic and take its rightful place in the comity of nations. It began to prove itself in many arenas, including sports. India carved out its own path in hockey and amassed many cricketing victories. Gender equality came to the fore and finally, India made its mark in the Olympics. India's sporting glory went hand in hand with its development as a nation; it was inclusive, resilient, tireless, and always aimed for the gold standard.

The theme of this year's calendar, "India's Sporting Glory: A Journey in Pursuit of Excellence," beautifully encapsulates the essence of sports and scholarship—the desire to test limits, to work harder, and to represent something larger than oneself.

I hope that this edition of the JGU calendar will serve as an inspiration to embrace an active lifestyle, hone athletic skills, and build character.

Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar

Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University

We wish you a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

NAVEEN JINDAL SPORTS ACADEMY

Located in a massive sports complex on the campus of O.P. Jindal Global University, Naveen Jindal Sports Academy (NJSA) has sporting facilities that are at par with global standards. The facilities include:

6 Squash Courts | A 10-metre technologically driven Shooting Range | A Gymnasium spread across 20,000 sq. ft. | Boxing, Judo (Dojo) | Fun Zone: The Game Loft Arena | Yoga & Dance Hall | A Swimming Pool, closer to an Olympic-sized Pool | A Multipurpose Hall with 3 Basketball Courts, 12 Badminton Courts, 4 Volleyball Courts, and 1,440 Bleachers which can seat nearly 2,500 people | A 333-metre Concentric Circular Track | A Physiotherapy Room with 8 booths for Recovery and Wellness

The sports complex is vertically organised with spiral walkways to every floor around the complex. The complex follows the architectural philosophy of biomimetics as does every other architecture on the JGU campus—crossed steel beams, and squares and golden rectangles characteristic of JGU buildings are used in abundance in the complex. The material grandeur of the complex has not diminished the aesthetics of it, making it a case of art in matter.



HOCKEY



In the mid-19th century, hockey came to India through the British Indian Army. Initially confined to cantonments and clubs, it spread to schools, villages, and towns as the game caught the imagination of the nation. In the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics, India made a distinct mark under the leadership of Dhyan Chand, winning gold without conceding a goal. India went on to win six consecutive Olympic gold medals from 1928–1956, and holds the record for most Olympic golds by any nation in men's field hockey. India produced greats like Balbir Singh Sr., Udham Singh, Dhanraj Pillay, Rani Rampal, and Vandana Katariya.



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NAVEEN JINDAL
SPORTS ACADEMY
INDIA'S GATEWAY TO GLOBAL SPORTING EXCELLENCE



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¹World Braille Day | ²International Day of Education | ³Republic Day (India)

BASKETBALL

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and missionaries brought basketball to India in the late 19th century. The first national basketball championship was held in 1934, followed by the formation of the first men's basketball team, gaining popularity across the nation. Stars like Gulam Abbas Moontasir and Khushi Ram gave India a foothold in the Asian circuit. Later, Amjot Singh Gill, Vishesh Bhriuvanshi, and Amritpal Singh brought visibility. Women's basketball flourished with Prashanti Singh and Geethu Anna Jose winning medals. Although not as popular as cricket, basketball today has leagues, schools, and 3x3 tournaments attracting young talent.



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FEBRUARY 2026



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INDIA'S GATEWAY TO GLOBAL SPORTING EXCELLENCE

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¹International Day of Human Fraternity | ²International Day of Women and Girls in Science

³World Day of Social Justice



CRICKET

From a children's pastime in the 1600s, cricket became a formal sport by the 18th century. When the colonisers introduced it to their colonies, India embraced it enthusiastically. Played in streets, schools, open grounds, and courts of princes, it soon turned competitive with events like the Ranji Trophy. India produced several stars, from Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, M.S. Dhoni, Virat Kohli to Mithali Raj, and Harmanpreet Kaur. From the first Men's Cricket World Cup win in 1983, followed by the 2011 triumph, to the first Women's Cricket World Cup victory in 2025, India continues to uphold its position as a powerhouse in world cricket while uniting people across boundaries and diversities.



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MARCH 2026



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¹Zero Discrimination Day | ²International Women's Day | ³World Poetry Day

FOOTBALL

Football in Colonial India was a symbol of rebellion. It took on an Indian identity when Mohun Bagan Athletic Club, playing barefoot, won the 1911 IFA Shield. It signaled both pride and protest. Nagendra Prasad Sarbadhikari brought football to Calcutta in the late 1800s, sparking the proliferation of clubs. The game reached its zenith in the 1950s–60s under Syed Abdul Rahim, with the triumphs at the Asian Games and Olympics led by players P.K. Banerjee, Chuni Goswami, and Tulsidas Balaram. Bhaichung Bhutia and Sunil Chhetri took it forward. From barefoot triumphs to global arenas, India now chases World Cup glory.



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APRIL 2026



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¹World Health Day | ²World Immunisation Week | ³World Intellectual Property Day

BADMINTON



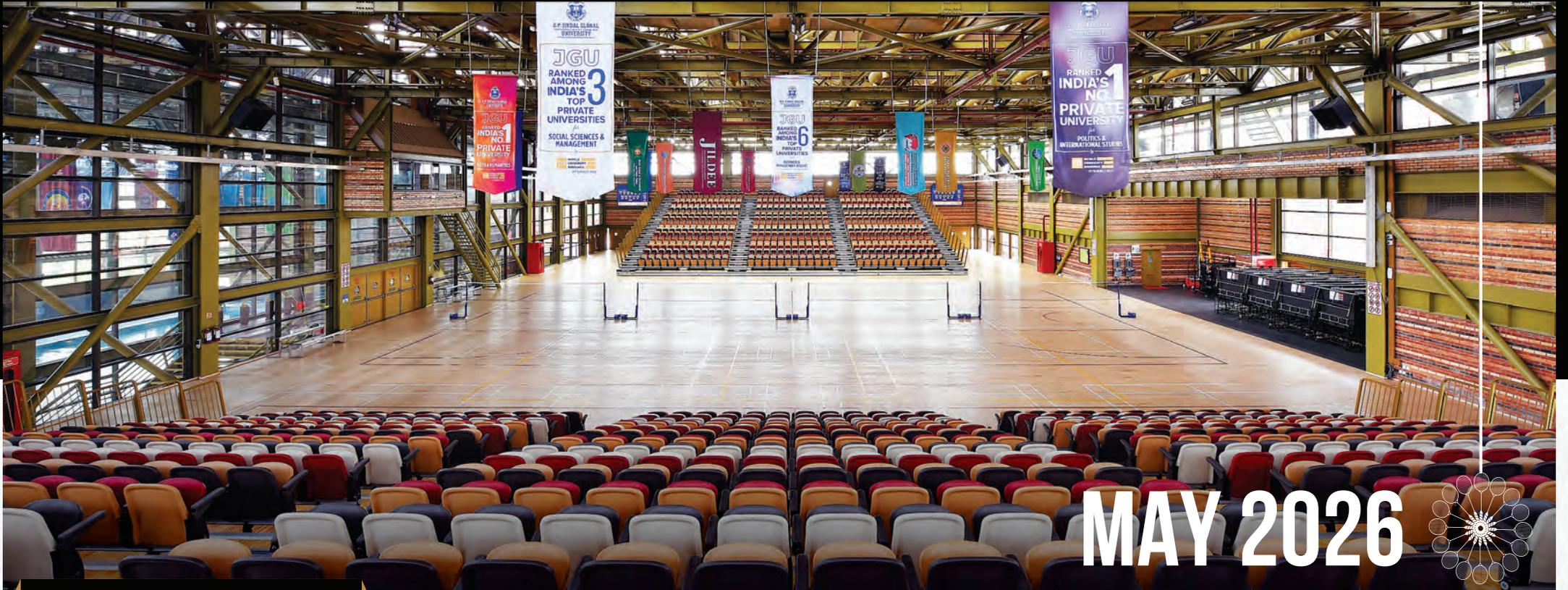
Badminton originated as a club sport, but rapidly gained international traction. Prakash Padukone's All-England win in 1980 put India on the world stage. Saina Nehwal was the first Indian to win an Olympic medal, followed by two-time Olympic medalist P.V. Sindhu who became the first Indian to win gold at the BWF World Championships, inspiring women to take up the sport. Srikanth Kidambi and H.S. Prannoy brought India major wins, and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy with Chirag Shetty reached World No. 1 ranking. If badminton continues on this trajectory, Indian athletes will soon occupy the top echelons of the sport.



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¹World Press Freedom Day

²World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

³International Day for Biological Diversity



TENNIS



Tennis was introduced in India by the British Army in the 1880s. With tournaments like the Punjab, Bengal, and All India Tennis Championships, the sport gained popularity across the country. It was formalised in 1920 with the All India Tennis Association. Ramanathan Krishnan and Vijay Amritraj, with Grand Slam runs and Davis Cup wins, brought India to the world stage. Leander Paes became the first Asian to win an Olympic medal in tennis, while Mahesh Bhupathi became the first Indian to win a Grand Slam. Rohan Bopanna also joined the ranks of Grand Slam champions, while Sania Mirza became the first Indian woman to win a Grand Slam title, inspiring future generations.

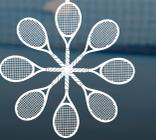


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JUNE 2026





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SHOOTING

Accuracy, nerves of steel, precision, and patience—this is the story of the rise of shooting in India. Once the preserve of maharajas and aristocracy, it grew into a competitive sport after the National Rifle Association of India was established in 1951. The breakthrough came with Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore's 2004 Olympic silver, cemented by Abhinav Bindra's 2008 Olympic gold, with Gagan Narang and Vijay Kumar adding to the laurels. Women excelled — Anjali Bhagwat became World No. 1 in 10m Air Rifle, inspiring a new generation of shooters like Manu Bhaker and Rahi Sarnobat. Today, with ranges and a professional Shooting League, the sport is taking centre stage.



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JULY 2026



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¹International Day of Cooperatives
²World Population Day | ³Nelson Mandela International Day

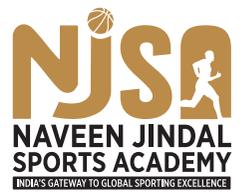


SWIMMING

Swimming is yet to capture the popular imagination in India, though its history and achievements run deep. In 1951, Sachin Nag won India's first Asian Games gold medal. Arati Saha became the first Asian woman to swim the English Channel in 1959. Today, Srihari Nataraj and Dhinidhi Desinghu hold several national records, while Benediction Rohit is breaking records at the World University Games. Among women, Bhakti Sharma has swum in all five oceans, while Maana Patel and Richa Mishra hold Indian swimming records. India is not a powerhouse yet, but it holds promise for a brighter future.



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AUGUST 2026



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NISA
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INDIA'S GATEWAY TO GLOBAL SPORTING EXCELLENCE

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¹New Academic Year at JGU | ²JGU Founder's Day
³Independence Day (India) | ⁴National Sports Day (India)

POLO



While the exact origins of polo are debated, many trace the sport's origins to Manipur, where it was played as Sagol Kangjei. Derived from this sport, British officers formalised its rules and introduced the modern iteration of polo to the world. In India, it became the sport of the aristocracy, and was later adopted by the Indian Army. The Indian Polo Association, set up in 1892, saw the sport through political transitions. Icons like Maharaj Prem Singh and Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II garnered global recognition for Indian polo, followed by players like Ravi Rathore, Simran Singh Shergill, and Rinaa Shah. Corporate and industrial houses are also supporting teams to carry forward India's heritage around the world.



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VOLLEYBALL



The golden era of Indian volleyball was led by Jimmy George, who became the first Indian to turn professional abroad, earning the moniker “God of Indian Volleyball”. Alongside him, Cyril Valloor and Abdul Basith were also part of the bronze-winning Indian team at the 1986 Asian Games. T.P. Padmanabhan Nair played a key role, winning medals during the Asian Games and later coaching the national team. Women’s volleyball grew through college and state tournaments, and players like Dipti Malik paved the way for future players. While it does not enjoy the status of cricket, volleyball holds great potential for the youth of India.



MOISTEN NEEDLE BEFORE INSERTING
INFLATE
UPTO 6 LBS
MADE IN INDIA
B-25



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OCTOBER 2026



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¹Gandhi Jayanti & International Day of Non-Violence
²World Mental Health Day | ³United Nations Day



BOXING

Boxing in India has shifted from obscurity to an Olympic sport. Vijender Singh, the first Indian on an Olympic podium, injected the winning mindset into Indian boxing. Mary Kom, who came from modest beginnings, became the first woman to win six World Championship titles and an Olympic bronze, followed by Lovlina Borgohain winning the third Olympic boxing medal. They are an inspiration to young women in a male-dominated sport. While these athletes paved the way, the Boxing Federation of India was the ground they stood on. Today, India's boxers stand as top-class talent who let their fists do the talking.



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NOVEMBER 2026



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¹Haryana Day (India) | ²National Education Day (India) | ³Constitution Day (India)

SQUASH



Once confined to British clubs, squash has evolved into a popular sport in India. The Squash Rackets Federation of India, set up in 1950, developed the national circuit and discovered talent through academies. Dipika Pallikal and Joshna Chinappa shifted the goalposts with their triumphs at the Asian and Commonwealth Games. Dipika was the first Indian women's singles player to be ranked in the global top 10 in 2012, followed by Joshna in 2016. Their Commonwealth Games doubles gold catapulted Indian squash onto the world stage. Saurav Ghosal became the first Indian player to reach the world's top 10 in senior singles. Newcomers such as Akanksha Salunkhe, Anahat Singh, and Abhay Singh are writing a new chapter.



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INDIA'S GATEWAY TO GLOBAL SPORTING EXCELLENCE



DECEMBER 2026





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NJSOA
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¹International Day of Persons with Disabilities
²International Anti-Corruption Day | ³Human Rights Day

Disclaimer

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CALENDAR 2027

January

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February

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March

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April

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May

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June

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August

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September

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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

October

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | 01 | 02 | 03 |
| 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

November

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | |
| 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 |
| 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

December

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 |
| 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |