



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Indian Medal Tally continues!

Sharad Kumar Soars High in Para Athletics

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India's para-athlete Sharad Kumar added another feather to his cap by securing the **silver medal** in Men's High Jump T63 at the Paris Paralympics 2024. His performance was a source of immense pride for the nation, further solidifying his status as one of India's premier para-athletes.



¹ https://x.com/Media_SAI/status/1831071205216182585/photo/1

Early Life and Background

Sharad Kumar's journey has been one of remarkable courage and perseverance. Born on **March 1, 1992, in Motipur, Bihar**, Sharad contracted polio at the tender age of two. His early life was fraught with health complications, requiring visits to hospitals as well as spiritual rituals in a desperate attempt to heal him.

At the age of four, Sharad was sent to a boarding school where he faced yet another challenge—being excluded from sports activities. While others participated, Sharad was confined to the bench, a situation that deeply frustrated him. The desire to break free from these limitations sparked his interest in sports, specifically the high jump. Inspired by his older brother, who was a school record holder, Sharad set his sights on high jump and never looked back.

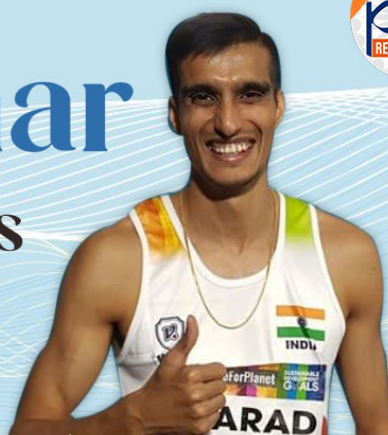
The Rise to International Competition

Sharad Kumar's athletic career took off when he won **gold at the 6th Junior National Para-Athletics Championship in 2009**, marking the start of a journey that would see him excel on the international stage. This early victory led to his **international debut at the 2010 Asian Para Games in Guangzhou, China**. Over the years, Sharad refined his skills, overcoming both personal and physical hurdles. Some of his key achievements include a **bronze medal at the Tokyo Paralympics 2020 in Men's High Jump T42**, **silver medals at the World Para Athletics Championships in 2019 and 2017**, and **gold medals at the Asian Para Games in 2018 and 2014**. Additionally, he secured a **gold medal at the Malaysia Open Para Athletics Championship**, solidifying his status as one of India's premier para-athletes.



Sharad Kumar

Achievements



Paris Paralympics	2024	Silver Medal
Tokyo Paralympics	2020	Bronze Medal
World Para Athletics Championship	2019	Silver Medal
Asian Para Games	2018	Gold Medal
World Para Athletics Championship	2017	Silver Medal
Asian Para Games	2014	Gold Medal
Malaysia Open Para Athletics Championship		Gold Medal

Government Support: A Key to Sharad's Success

Sharad Kumar's success in para-athletics has been greatly bolstered by the Indian government's robust support through various schemes. Financial assistance has been provided for his training, competitions, and expert coaching, which has been essential for his development and performance. The availability of top-notch training facilities at **Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula** has further contributed to his preparation. Additionally, the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** has ensured that Sharad received comprehensive support and resources needed to excel. These interventions have been instrumental in Sharad's achievements, enabling him to compete at the highest levels and achieve remarkable success in his sport.

Conclusion

Sharad Kumar's story is one of triumph against all odds. From battling the effects of polio to standing on the podium at the Tokyo and Paris Paralympics, his journey is an inspiration to aspiring athletes. With numerous accolades to his name and more to come, Sharad continues to break barriers and bring pride to the nation.

References

INDIAN ATHLETES: PARIS PARALYMPICS 2024 pdf

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2051582#:~:text=The%20Prime%20Minister%2C%20Shri%20Narendra,for%20his%20consistency%20and%20excellence.>

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