

Development Of Professional Career Of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratana, Padma Shri, Arjuna Awardee, International Wrestler Sushil Kumar

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INTRODUCTION Sushil Kumar is an Indian World Champion wrestler who brought laurels to the country through his honorary achievements and successful victories at an international level. Sushil Kumar created history when he became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the FILA 2010 World Wrestling Championships held in Moscow on 12th September 2010. Sushil Kumar is the first Indian to win back to back individual Olympic medals by winning a silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics and a bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

BIOGRAPHY

Sushil Kumar Solanki is a Jaat hailing from the village of Baprola in South Delhi. He was born on 26th May 1983 in Baprola. His father Siwan Singh was a DTC bus driver and mother Kamala Devi who is a housewife. He was encouraged to take up wrestling by his cousin Sandeep and his father who was a 'pehelwan' (wrestler) himself. Sushil Kumar trained at the akhada (wrestling school) in the Chhatrasal Stadium from the age of 14 years. He is presently employed by the Indian Railways as an Assistant Commercial Manager

Sushil Kumar was trained at the akhada by Indian pehlwans Yashvir and Ramphal and later he was trained by Arjuna awarded Satpal and then at the railways camp by Coach Gyan Singh. Sushil Kumar endured tough training conditions including sharing a mattress with fellow wrestler and also sharing a dormitory with twenty others. Sushil Kumar became a state champ at the age of 18. His first success came at the World Cadet Games in the year 1998 where he won the gold medal in his weight category. This was soon followed by gold in the Asian junior Wrestling Championship in the year 2000.

After he went out of the junior championships, Sushil won the bronze medal in the Asian Wrestling Championships in the year 2003 and followed that up with a gold medal in the Commonwealth Wrestling Championships. He places fourth in the World Championships in the year 2003, but this went largely unnoticed by the India media as he fared badly in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens in the 60 kg class where he was placed 14th. Sushil Kumar then won gold medals in the Commonwealth Wrestling Championships in the year 2005 and 2007. During this time, he was ranked 7th in the 2007 World Wrestling Championships and won a bronze medal in 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. He also qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics taking place in London.

During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, in the bronze medal match on 20th August 2008, he beat Spiridonov of Kazakhstan. He then disclosed that he had no masseur during the three bouts he won within a span of 70 minutes to take the bronze. Kartar Singh, the team manager also a former Asian Games medalist acted as a masseur for him.

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Sushil Kumar won the gold medal in the 2010 Commonwealth games which was held in Delhi on 10th October 2010. In the finals, he defeated Heinrich Barnes of South Africa in the 66 kg competition. The South African wrestler found it difficult to endure more than three and half minutes in front of Sushil Kumar. In return, the referee has to stop the bout in the second round.

Sushil Kumar has been chosen as the India's flag bearer for London Olympics opening ceremony on 27th July. He won the silver medal in the 66 kg free style wrestling after losing

in the final to Tatsuhiro Yonemitsu of Japan. Sushil Kumar also made television appearance in a reality show Roadies 9 in the year 2012.

CAREER

Kumar started training in pehlwani at the Chhatrasal Stadium's akhada at the age of 14. He was trained at the akhada by Yashvir and Ramphal, later by Arjuna awardee Satpal and then at the Indian Railways camp by Gyan Singh and Rajkumar Baisla Gurjar.

After switching to freestyle wrestling Kumar's first success came at the World Cadet Games in 1998 where he won the gold medal in his weight category, followed by a gold at the Asian Junior Wrestling Championship in 2000. Moving out of the junior competitions, in 2003 Kumar won the bronze medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships and a gold at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championships. Kumar placed fourth at the 2003 World Championships, but this went largely unnoticed by the Indian media as he fared badly in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, placing 14th in the 60 kg weight class. He won gold medals at the Commonwealth wrestling championships in 2005 and 2007. He placed seventh in the 2007 World Championships and won a bronze medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. He won a silver medal at the 2012 Summer Olympics, becoming the first person to win two Olympic medals for independent India.[24] Kumar was awarded the Arjuna Award in 2006 and a coveted Padma shree by the Indian Government in 2011.

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Kumar lost to Andriy Stadnik in the first round of the 66 kg freestyle wrestling event, leaving his medal hopes hinging on the repechage. He defeated Doug Schwab in the first repechage round and Albert Batyrov in the second round. In the bronze medal match on 20 August 2008, Kumar beat Leonid Spiridonov by 3:1. Kumar disclosed that he had no masseur during the three bouts he won within a span of 70 minutes to take the bronze. The team manager Kartar Singh who is a former Asian Games medallist acted as the masseur for him.

2010 WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS, MOSCOW

At the 2010 World Wrestling Championships Kumar became the first Indian to win a world title in wrestling. He beat the local favourite Alan Gogaev of Russia 3–1 in the finals in the 66 kg category.

2010 COMMONWEALTH GAMES, DELHI

Kumar won gold medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games held in Delhi on 10 October 2010. He beat Heinrich Barnes 7–0 in the finals in the 66 kg freestyle wrestling category. The bout was stopped by the referee in the second round. Earlier, in the semifinals, Kumar defeated Famara Jarjou 3–0 within 9 seconds. In the quarterfinals, Kumar defeated Muhammad Salman 10–0 in 46 seconds.

2012 LONDON OLYMPICS

Kumar won a silver medal after losing the final to Tatsuhiro Yonemitsu.[30] Earlier, he had entered the final amid some controversy by beating Kazakhstan's Akzhurek Tanatarov in the semifinal. The Kazakh athlete claimed that Kumar had bitten his ear, which was denied by the latter. Kumar was the Olympic flag bearer for India at the opening ceremony.

2014 COMMONWEALTH GAMES, GLASGOW

Kumar defeated Qamar Abbas in the 74 kg final to win the gold medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. He won in 107 seconds by fall.

2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES, GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA

Kumar won gold in 74 kg category on 12 April 2018, Thursday, beating South Africa's Johannes Botha in the final that lasted 80 seconds thus achieving a feat of winning 3 gold medals in 3 consecutive commonwealth games.

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