

## Eyeing 2020-21 Tokyo Olympics

Swimming was introduced in modern Olympics in 1900, Paris Olympics. In 1928, Shri. D.D. Mulji became the first Indian swimmer to participate Olympics. In 1932, Shri Nalin Chandra represented India at Olympics. After that Indian swimmers got to participate in 1948, 1952, 1956 & 1964 and then after a gap of 24 year in 1988.

We observe that India from being irregular participant in Olympics till 1992 became consistent participant since 1996. Indian swimmers started participating through universality quota/ B qualification. It was only in the year 2016 that for the very first time any Indian swimmer achieved the 'A' qualifying mark for Paralympics held at Rio. Surely it's a matter of immense pride that, para swimmer, Suyash Narayan Jadhav became the only Indian swimmer to qualify, "A" Cut timings for Paralympics.

**India still awaits "Olympic Qualifying Time" (OQT / "A" Time) in swimming, the sure shot entry to Olympics.**

The upcoming Tokyo Olympics Swimming will have (35) thirty five events in total & number of Athletes for Swimming Qualification Places Universality Places Total Places are 878. The **International Olympic Committee** has set **June 29, 2021** as the new deadline for the qualification period of the Tokyo Olympics, which has been rescheduled to next year in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic of covid-19.

FINA the world body of swimming like others sports will abide by the new deadline **June 29, 2021** for the qualification period of the Tokyo Olympics. Rescheduling of pending/ cancelled Olympic qualifier events will give a fair chance to all over world swimmers to still qualify for Tokyo 2021.

**The world body FINA clearly states the participation pathways:**

The priority order for qualification places into the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 will be (FINA Rule BL 9.3.6.4.2):

1. All athletes with Olympic Qualifying Times (OQT / "A" Time)
2. Athletes in relays
3. Universality Places
4. Invited athletes who have achieved an Olympic Selection Time (OST / "B" time)

The good news is that, six of our male swimmers have qualified so far for upcoming Tokyo Olympics (B qualification timing). Six Indian swimmers are Kushagra Rawat, Sri Hari Natrajan, Advait page, Aryan Makhija, Sajan prakash & Virbhawal khade and the bad news is that, till date not even a single female swimmer has even qualified B timings for Tokyo.

Kushagra Rawat is the only Indian swimmer who has qualified in 3 events for the upcoming Olympics.

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**SIX Indian swimmers Qualified Olympic Selection Time (OST / “B” time)**



**KUSHAGRA RAWAT**

Kushagra Rawat, is holding the best Indian performance in 400 & 1500mtrs. Freestyle event. Rawat is the only Indian swimmer who has achieved the 'B' qualification mark in the three events with timings of 3:52.75s in 400m, 8:01.71s in 800m and 15:25.22 in 1500m freestyle.

Virdhawal Khade Arjuna Awardee & Asian Games, Bronze Medalist. Virdhawal Khade is the fastest swimmer in our country and he is holding India's best performance in five swimming events. Vir has qualified 'B' mark in 50m freestyle with a timing of 22.44s.



**VIRDHAWAL KHADE**



**SRI HARI NATRAJAN**

Sri Hari Natrajan is holding India's best performance in 50, 100 & 200 meters backstroke. He is one of the finest backstroke swimmers India has produced so far. Sri has qualified 'B' mark in 100m Backstroke with a time of 54.69s.

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**SAJAN PRAKASH**

Sajan Prakash is the only male swimmer who represented India at Rio Olympics in 2016. Sajan holds India's best performance in 200m butterfly & 200m Individual medley.

Sajan has achieved 'B' qualification mark in 200m butterfly with a time of 1:58.45s.

Advait Page, holds India's best performance in 800m freestyle & 400m Individual medley. Page has achieved 'B' qualification mark in 800m freestyle with a time of 8:00.76sec.



**ADVAIT PAGE**



**ARYAN MAKHIJA**

Aryan Makhija, talented freestyle swimmer achieved 'B' qualification mark in 800m freestyle with a time of 8:07.80s.

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**All those who are still eyeing qualifying timings refer to the table given below. It outlines the Qualification Time Standards for the Olympic Games Tokyo.**

The standards have been based on the following numbers:

A-Standard: TBD

B-Standard: TBD

Men		Event	Women	
Olympic Qualifying Time (OQT / "A" Time) – 2 Entries	Olympic Selection Time (OST / "B" Time) – 1 Entry		Olympic Qualifying Time (OQT / "A" Time) – 2 Entries	Olympic Selection Time (OST / "B" Time) – 1 Entry
22.01	22.67	50m Freestyle	24.77	25.51
48.57	50.03	100m Freestyle	54.38	56.01
1:47.02	1:50.23	200m Freestyle	1:57.28	2:00.80
3:46.78	3:53.58	400m Freestyle	4:07.90	4:15.34
7:54.31	8:08.54	800m Freestyle	8:33.36	8:48.76
15:00.99	15:28.02	1500m Freestyle	16:32.04	17:01.80
53.85	55.47	100m Backstroke	1:00.25	1:02.06
1:57.50	2:01.03	200m Backstroke	2:10.39	2:14.30
59.93	1:01.73	100m Breaststroke	1:07.07	1:09.08
2:10.35	2:14.26	200m Breaststroke	2:25.52	2:29.89
51.96	53.52	100m Butterfly	57.92	59.66
1:56.48	1:59.97	200m Butterfly	2:08.43	2:12.28
1:59.67	2:03.26	200m Ind. Medley	2:12.56	2:16.54
4:15.84	4:21.46	400m Ind. Medley	4:38.53	4:46.89

Will India satisfy itself again with participation on universality quota, OQT "B" or history will be created with first ever Indian swimmer qualifying OQT/ "A" is still a question. As June 29, 2021 is set as new deadline for the qualification period of the Tokyo Olympics, certainly gives immense scope to all over world swimmers who are still eyeing to qualify.

Wishing good luck to our swimmers who are on the road to TOKYO.

- MEENAKSHI PAHUJA

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