

Legend Raja Randhir Singh Will Always Be Remembered as one of the Greatest Sports Promoter



(18 October 1946 – 27 May 2026)

Humble and grounded, few would guess that Randhir Singh hailed from the royal family of Punjab. He was a passionate sports lover, a five-time Indian Olympian, and an Olympic trap and skeet shooter. Notably, he became the first Indian shooter to win a gold medal at the 1978 Asian Games. He was awarded the Arjuna Award in 1979 for his achievements in shooting and retired from sports shooting in 1994.

Sports Administrator

Randhir Singh served as the Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for 25 years, from 1987 to 2012. He held key roles in both Indian and international sports organizations, including:

- President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) from September 2024, having been Acting President since September 2021.
- Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from 2001 to 2014, and honorary member from 2014 onwards.
- Secretary General of the OCA from 1991 to 2015.
- Member of the Sports Authority of India's governing board from 1987 to 2010.
- Vice Chairman of the Organizing Committee that brought the 2010 Commonwealth Games to India. He also served as Life Vice President of the OCA from 2015 to 2021 and was Chairman of the Coordination Committee for the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China.

His unanimous election as OCA President on 8 September 2024 marked the first time an Indian held that prestigious position.

Randhir Singh was a true champion of Olympic solidarity. I fondly remember my father's long association with him. The release of the 9th edition of the swimming statistical bulletin was eagerly awaited by young swimmers, including myself, who cherished the chance to receive it directly from him. He patiently engaged with each swimmer, giving everyone a special moment to connect and take photos.

The impression he left on me was clear: **"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."** From our first meeting, Randhir Singh ji always addressed me by name and sincerely celebrated my achievements and contributions to Indian sports and physical education. His encouraging thumbs-up on every professional platform motivated me to strive harder until our next meeting.

Today, as I write this tribute, I thank my father for introducing me to a legendary sportsman, a true promoter, and a dedicated well-wisher of Indian sports and athletes. Raja Randhir Singh ji leaves behind a legacy that continues to inspire people worldwide.

Raja Sahib, we will miss you!

MEENAKSHI PAHUJA

Surender Paul Dhall Will Dive No More

Ever Smiling, jovial & helpful nature simple living Dhall sir will be missed by one and all. He was former vice - president of Delhi Swimming Association & a National level diver of his time who till the very last promoted diving in Delhi. Mr. Dhall served in Directorate of Education, Delhi government as diving coach & senior technical official over three decades. After his



retirement he actively contributed to Delhi swimming & diving circle. One could see him conducting school national games diving events, officiating at Delhi state championship, Directorate of Education aquatic meet or any Delhi zone or private tournament silently passing on his experience and knowledge to next generation of technical officials and young coaches. He leaves behind his wife, Son Rishi, daughter Shilpa and grand children. He will be remembered forever for his service & contribution to aqua sports

May God gift strength to the family to bear the irreplaceable loss

MEENAKSHI PAHUJA