

## **Mary Kom: The Boxing Icon of India**

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**Abstract:** The awards, achievements and recognitions of Indian women's boxer Mary Kom are examined in this paper. She is an enduring champion in women's boxing because of her hard work, perseverance, and the strength of self-discipline. In addition to being a six-time World Amateur Boxing champion, Mary Kom became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic boxing medal. Entitled to as "Magnificent Mary" or "Meethoi Leima," she is a living legend who inspires young people and future generations who love to play boxing, regardless of gender. In conclusion, qualitative analysis will be the main substance of this paper.

**Keywords:** Mary Kom, Boxing, Olympics, India

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### **Introduction**

The International Boxing Association (AIBA) named Hmangte Chungneijang Mary Kom "Magnificent Mary" in 2008 (Sportsmatik, 2024), and the Manipur government named "Meethoi Leima" in six-time world boxing champion (Leivon, 2018). "Mary" Kom was a talented athlete from an early age, despite coming from a low-income farming family in Manipur. But after seeing fellow Manipuri Dingko Singh win a gold medal at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok (Sanyal & Singh, 2022), she made the decision to play boxing. The first Indian woman to win a boxing medal at the Olympics was Mary Kom. Her boxing accolades, accomplishments, and recognitions date back centuries. Her diligence, fortitude, and capacity for self-control. Now, she became a living legend who inspires young people and future generations who love to play boxing, regardless of gender.

### **Objective of the study**

The objective of the study is to examine the awards, achievements, recognition and honours, etc of Mary Kom in the realm of boxing.

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## Methodology

The qualitative approach to data analysis is employed. Personal records, published material, books, pamphlets, articles, newspapers, and reports on Mary Kom will all be used to gather the necessary secondary data. Statistical techniques such as tabulation were used to analyse the data.

## Mary Kom boxing achievement

Year	Event & Venue	Category	Medal
2012	Olympic games, London	Flyweight	Bronze
2002	World Championships, Antalya	Pinweight	Goal
2005	World Championships, Podolsk	Pinweight	Goal
2006	World Championships, New Delhi	Pinweight	Goal
2008	World Championships, Ningbo City	Pinweight	Goal
2010	World Championships, Bridgetown	Light flyweight	Goal
2018	World Championships, New Delhi	Light flyweight	Goal
2001	World Championships, Scranton	Light flyweight	Silver
2019	World Championships, Ulan-Ude	flyweight	Bronze
2014	Asian Games, Incheon	flyweight	Goal
2010	Asian Games, Guangzhou	flyweight	Silver
2003	Asian Championships, Hisar	Pinweight	Goal
2005	Asian Championships, Kaohsiung	Pinweight	Goal
2010	Asian Championships, Astana	Pinweight	Goal
2012	Asian Championships, Ulaanbaatar	flyweight	Goal
2017	Asian Championships, Ho Chi Minh City	Light Flyweight	Goal
2008	Asian Championships, Guwahati	Pinweight	Silver
2021	Asian Championships, Dubai	Flyweight	Silver
2018	Commonwealth Games, Gold Cost	Light Flyweight	Goal
2009	Asian Indoor Games, Hanoi	Pinweight	Goal

*Sources: Wikipedia, Mary Kom (2025)*

## Awards and Recognitions

Mary Kom received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2009, the Arjuna Award in 2003, the Padma Shri in 2006, the Padma Bhushan Award in 2013, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2020—two of the most prestigious civilian honors in India—from the Indian government thus far (Valecha, 2022).

## Member of parliament (Rajya Sabha)

Mary Kom was nominated by then-President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee on April 25, 2016, and she became the first female Member of Parliament from northeast India. She served from April 25, 2016, to



April 24, 2022 (Imphal Times, 2016). She served the country as a member of parliament under the strictest and lengthiest Indian constitution, in addition to being a sportswoman.

### **Mary Kom film**

Priyanka Chopra starred in the 2014 biographical film directed by Omung Kumar, which was based on the woman boxer Mary Kom, a six-time World Amateur Boxing Champion from Manipuri (Nag, 2021). Aside from her political and athletic careers, Mary Kom's life story was depicted in an entertainment movie.

### **Findings**

- Inspired by fellow Manipuri Dingko Singh's gold medal victory at the 1998 Asian Games.
- She was named "Magnificent Mary" by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) in 2008.
- "Meethoi Leima" by the Manipur government.
- Mary Kom became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic boxing medal at the 2012 London Olympics.
- She also received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2009.
- The Padma Vibhushan in 2020.
- The Padma Bhushan in 2013.
- The Padma Shri in 2006.
- The Arjuna Award in boxing in 2003.
- She was a six-time world champion in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, and 2018.
- She was nominated as a member of the Rajya Sabha by then-President Pranab Mukherjee; and
- In 2014, Priyanka Chopra starred in a biopic film as a role of Mary Kom directed by Omung Kumar.

### **Conclusion**

Awards, achievements and recognitions of Mary Kom and her hard work, perseverance, and the strength of self-discipline. In addition to being a six-time World Amateur Boxing champion and the first Indian woman to win an Olympic boxing medal, Mary Kom has won the World Amateur Boxing Championship six times. Regarded as "Magnificent Mary" or "Meethoi Leima," Mary Kom is a living legend who serves as an inspiration to boxing enthusiasts of both genders and future generations.



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