

'India can win more than 10 medals in Oly'

IOA Prez Batra Says The Prep For Tokyo Is On Track

Vivek.Krishnan
@timesgroup.com

Chennai: With just more than three months to go for the Tokyo Olympics, India's preparations for the marquee event have begun to gain steam in many disciplines. Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief **Narinder Batra** exuded confidence that the country's preparations are on track despite the many challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, adding that he expects India to hit double figures in the medal tally. It will be an uphill task, given that India won only two medals during the 2016 Olympics.

"Preparations are very much on track. My feeling is that we will end up with around 125-130 athletes making the cut for Tokyo. In terms of medal prospects, we maintain that we should reach double figures. Training is going on. It is up to the athletes whether they want to train in India or outside. All support is being given by the federations and the sports ministry," Batra said on the sidelines of a hockey tournament - Shri NPV Ra-

Jr hockey WC in Assam in Nov

It was also learnt that the junior hockey World Cup, scheduled in India this year, will be held in Guwahati in Assam in November.

masamy Udayar Hockey Cup - in Chennai on Friday.

While the Tokyo-bound archers and rowers and a few other athletes have taken the Covid-19 vaccine, there have been qualms about the vaccination drive for athletes not making much headway. Asked about the vaccination drive for the athletes, Batra said: "The International Olympic Committee's policy is that you cannot force anyone to take the vaccine. It is an individual decision of an athlete whether to take the vaccine or not."

Batra informed that Friday was the last day for IOA to send the list of coaches and support staff that will be travelling alongside the athletes for the Olympics.