India's first Youth Olympic boxing gold at Dakar 2026

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News

At the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, capital of Senegal, young Manipur boxer Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei won gold in the men's 50 kg category on 12 November 2026. He beat Kristian Jubani of Ireland 3–2 in the final, after defeating Colombia's Izzon Jeffrey Galea Arevalo 5–0 in the semi-final. It is India's first-ever boxing gold in Youth Olympic history and India's first gold of Dakar 2026, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) said. Hours later, Gunjan won the women's 48 kg gold, beating Algeria's Bouthaina Bensalah by unanimous decision, to become the first Indian woman to win Youth Olympic boxing gold. That took India's tally to 10 medals (2 gold, 3 silver, 5 bronze), IANS reported. Dakar 2026 (31 Oct – 13 Nov) is the first Olympic sporting event held on African soil, with venues in Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Boxer	Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei, Manipur
Category / date	Men's 50 kg – 12 Nov 2026
Final	Beat Kristian Jubani (Ireland) 3–2
Milestone	India's first-ever Youth Olympic boxing gold
Second gold	Gunjan – women's 48 kg; beat Algeria's Bensalah

Point	Details
India's tally	10 (2 gold, 3 silver, 5 bronze) – IANS
Event	Dakar 2026 YOG – 31 Oct–13 Nov; first Olympic event in Africa
India's best YOG	Buenos Aires 2018 – 13 medals (3 gold)

Background

- The Youth Olympic Games are held by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for athletes aged 15 to 18. The first summer edition was in Singapore in 2010. At Dakar 2026, about 2,700 athletes from over 200 National Olympic Committees competed in 25 sports. It is the first Olympic event on African soil.
- Vijender Singh won India's first Olympic boxing medal at Beijing 2008 (75 kg, bronze). Mary Kom (51 kg) became the first Indian woman boxer to win an Olympic medal, a bronze at London 2012; Lovlina Borgohain won bronze at Tokyo 2020.
- Over governance problems, the IOC withdrew recognition of the old international boxing body (AIBA/IBA). In February 2025 the IOC gave provisional recognition to 'World Boxing', paving the way for boxing at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.
- Senegal is a West African country; its capital Dakar lies on the Atlantic coast at the western tip of mainland Africa. A former French colony, it became independent in 1960.

Tamil Nadu link: No Tamil Nadu athlete is linked to this news. Tamil Nadu's youth-sports link: the 'Khelo India Youth Games' were held in Tamil Nadu on 19–31 January 2024 at Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Coimbatore; squash made its debut there and Silambam, Tamil Nadu's traditional martial art, was a demonstration sport.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

At the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, capital of Senegal, young Manipur boxer Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei won gold in the men's 50 kg category on 12 November 2026. He beat Kristian Jubani of Ireland 3–2 in the final, after defeating Colombia's Izzon Jeffrey Galea Arevalo 5–0 in the semi-final.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Boxer: Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei, Manipur; Category / date: Men's 50 kg – 12 Nov 2026; Final: Beat Kristian Jubani (Ireland) 3–2; Milestone: India's first-ever Youth Olympic boxing gold.

What is the background to this news?

The Youth Olympic Games are held by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for athletes aged 15 to 18. The first summer edition was in Singapore in 2010.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. In the men's 50 kg boxing final at Dakar 2026, Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei beat a boxer from which country?

A) Colombia

B) Ireland

C) Algeria

D) Senegal

Answer: B – Explanation: Ireland – he beat Kristian Jubani 3–2 on 12 Nov 2026, after a 5–0 semi-final win over a Colombian boxer.

2. Gunjan, who won India a Youth Olympic boxing gold at Dakar 2026, competed in which weight category?

A) 51 kg

B) 54 kg

C) 48 kg

D) 57 kg

Answer: C – Explanation: 48 kg – she beat Algeria's Bouthaina Bensalah 5–0 in the final. Both boxers India sent to Dakar (Gunjan and Ambekar Meetei) won gold.

3. Who won India's first Olympic boxing medal – a bronze at Beijing 2008?

A) Vijender Singh

B) Mary Kom

C) Akhil Kumar

D) Lovlina Borgohain

Answer: A – Explanation: Vijender Singh (Haryana) – 75 kg. Mary Kom won bronze at London 2012 and Lovlina at Tokyo 2020.

4. Lairenlakpam Ambekar Meetei, men's 50 kg boxing gold medallist at Dakar 2026, is from which State?

A) Manipur

B) Haryana

C) Assam

D) Mizoram

Answer: A – Explanation: Manipur – he beat Ireland's Kristian Jubani 3–2 in the final. Mary Kom is also from Manipur.

5. Which international body got provisional IOC recognition in 2025, paving the way for boxing at the 2028 Olympics?

A) IBA (ex-AIBA)

B) World Boxing

C) WBC

D) IOC Task Force

Answer: B – Explanation: World Boxing – Feb 2025. The IBA lost recognition over governance issues; the WBC is a professional boxing body.

Sources: ANI – aninews.in (12 Nov 2026); The Tribune – tribuneindia.com (12 Nov 2026); Outlook India – outlookindia.com (Indian contingent list: 2 boxers); IANS (12 Nov 2026); IOC – olympics.com (Dakar 2026 opening); SDAT press release – kygcms.tn.gov.in (17 Jan 2024); The Irish Times – irishtimes.com (26 Feb 2025, World Boxing). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.