



Tokyo Olympics 2020 Postponed

 drishtiias.com/printpdf/tokyo-olympics-2020-postponed

Why in News

The International Olympic Committee and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee have decided to **postpone** the Tokyo 2020 Summer Games **to the summer 2021** due to the **coronavirus pandemic**.

- However, the Olympics Games **will keep the name Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020**.
- The decision came after some of the major sporting nations like **Australia and Canada** withdrew from the Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- The nations withdrew in the backdrop of **limited international travel, difficulty in training and exposed risk of contracting or spreading the disease**.

COVID-19

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has named the new coronavirus disease as '**COVID-19**'.
- The new name is taken from the words "**corona**", "**virus**" and "**disease**", with **2019** representing the year when it emerged (the outbreak was reported to the WHO on 31st December, 2019).
- The word coronavirus refers to the **group of viruses it belongs to**, rather than the latest strain. The latest strain has been designated 'Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)' by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has also declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. According to the WHO, a pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spreads around the world beyond expectations.

Key Points

- **Historic Postponement :**

- The organisers have postponed the event for the **first time in its 124-year modern history.**

The first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896 at Athens (Greece).

 - It is also considered as the **first postponement** of an Olympics in **peacetime**.
 - Earlier, the games were not held during World War II considering the turmoil across the world.
 - In 1940, Japan was to be the first Asian country to host the Olympics.
 - But its military aggression in Asia forced the annulment of the Olympics scheduled in Japan.
 - The 1940 Olympics is known as the "**Missing Olympics**" after the Games were switched to Helsinki (Finland) before finally being scrapped because of World War II.

- **Economic Cost:**

- Tokyo was **spending \$12.6 billion** to host the Games and a postponement could **cost it \$6 billion** as the short-term period loss.
- It will also be a **bitter blow to sponsors and major broadcasters** who rely on this four-yearly event for critical advertising revenue.

Background

- **Origin:**

Olympic Games **originated in ancient Greece** and were an intrinsic part of a **religious festival**. They were held in honour of Zeus (the greek god of the sky) at Olympia in Greece.

- **Modern Olympics Games:**

- Olympic Games were **revived** in the late **19th century**.
- The first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896 at Athens (Greece).
- The **architect of the modern Olympics Games** was **Pierre, baron de Coubertin**.

- **International Olympic Committee (IOC):**

- It was created on **23 June 1894** and is the **supreme authority** of the Olympic Movement.
- It is a **not-for-profit independent** international organisation that is committed to building a better world through sport.
- It ensures the regular celebration of the Olympic Games, supports all affiliated member organisations and strongly encourages, by appropriate means, the promotion of the Olympic values.

- **Pattern of Olympics Games:**

- The Olympics have been held **every four years since 1948.**
- The honour of holding the Olympic Games is **entrusted to a city, not to a country.** The choice of the city lies solely with the IOC.
Thus , the application to hold the Games is made by the chief authority of the city, with the support of the national government.

Source:TH