

# TRIUMPH & TURMOIL

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# History made in Tokyo



Tokyo Olympic Medalists from India (Image Courtesy: Google)

GAME	ATHLETE	MEDAL
Javelin throw	Neeraj Chopra	Gold
Wrestling (57 KG)	Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Bronze
Weight Lifting (49 Kg Women)	Mirabai Chanu	Silver
Women's Singles Badminton	PV Sindhu	Bronze
Women's Welter-weight Boxing	Lovlina Borgohain	Bronze
Hockey	Indian Hockey Team	Bronze
Wrestling (65 Kg)	Bajrang Punia	Bronze

Sanhita Mishra

India culminated its best-ever performance in Olympics triumphing seven medals. Bagging in GOLD for India, Neeraj Chopra has become the most commemorated personage with the second independent gold in Olympics.

With enthralling performances,

Mirabai Chanu and Ravi Dahiya seized the second position in weightlifting and grappling respectively. Undergoing immense constraints, the achievements of PV Sindhu, the men's hockey team, Lovlina Borgohain, and Bajrang Punia, in the third position for their corresponding disciplines have enraptured the attention of millions.

## So close, yet so far!



From top: Indian Women hockey team & Deepak Punia

Sanhita Mishra

The women's hockey team consummated the best, but could not list themselves at the top. However, scoring the lowest in Rio 2016, they concluded at the fourth position in Tokyo. Being just 10 seconds away from a medal, the 22-year-old Deepak Punia made his debut in the Olympics. Capturing the imagination of the entire country, Aditi Ashok, made everyone turn on their television to understand the concept of golf.

## A gold for the centuries

Ushana Maji

After Olympian, Abhinav Bindra, ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has become India's second athlete to win India's first ever gold in athletics at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The Indian anthem was sung at an Olympic medal ceremony for the second time in thirteen years with the gold in Tokyo.

Neeraj; the son of a farmer from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana stunned the sports world by throwing 87.58 meters in the finals, ending India's 100-year wait for an Olympic track and field gold. The gold winning throw was, however, short of his personal best of 88.06m which he

achieved at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. India. Chopra's historic triumph in Tokyo with the aid of his German coach, Uwe Hohn, took years to achieve.

Neeraj began throwing jav-



Neeraj Chopra (Image Courtesy: Google)

elin to lose weight since he was extremely overweight, but he eventually fell in love with the sport, and the result is now a golden record for

The 23-years-old javelin thrower, on the other hand, claimed that he wants to keep focused on his sport.



## Evolution of the Olympic games over the years

Shreya Banerjee

With the termination of the Olympic games in recent memory, the excitement of the event still remains glowing and fresh. The games, with a history of pride and glory of its own has evolved radically, undergoing metamorphosis time and again. The Olympic games, still remains evergreen in its pallor, portraying the world it's accord as it stands.

Tracing back to the Ancient Greek Olympic Games epoch, which was initiated in honor of the Greek God Zeus in the year 776 BC, they incorporated not only sporting events like today but also cultural contests like poetry and music.

It was inaugurated in the town of Olympia and became the footing of the earliest Greek

calendars, marking the span of 4 years as Olympiads. They predominantly featured athletic games like foot-racing, jumping, javelin-throw, dis-



Image Source: Eduindex News

cuss-throw along with sports like wrestling and pankration, where the strongest man emerged victo-

rious. But 393 AD saw the termination of the long running Ancient Olympic Games, as the Christian Roman Emperor Theodosius I prohibited pagan

practices.

Around 1500 hundred years later, Panagiotis Soutsos, a

newspaper editor and poet presented the idea of the Olympic Games revival in one of his poems 'Dialogue of the Dead'.

In the year 1859, an affluent philanthropist, Evangelos Zappas funded the first Olympic Games and later even restored the Panathenaic Stadium. Ten years along the line the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was founded, aiming for an international stage and occurring once every four years. With Demetrius Vikelas being elected as the first president of IOC, the official Olympic Games finally took off in the year of 1896 at Athens.

Currently there are more than 200 nations all over the world who participate in the Olympic Games. With ample events, athletes get to showcase their strengths, winning medals for their country.

## Commitment outweighs disability



Paralympics participants representing India in Tokyo 2020

(Image Courtesy: Google)

Farheen Haldar

Turning misfortune into triumph is an art that demands a soul which is oblivious of giving up in appalling circumstances. India at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, exhibited an incredible performance.

The Indian contingent at the Paralympics has reportedly secured a total of 19 medals. This has left the entire country to reconsider the definition

of disability. Names of all the winners who secured gold, silver, and bronze are still echoing in our ears. Paralympians have been an epitome of strength that occurs by resisting obligations inflicted by life. The challenges propounded by life play a crucial role in carving undefeatable individuals.

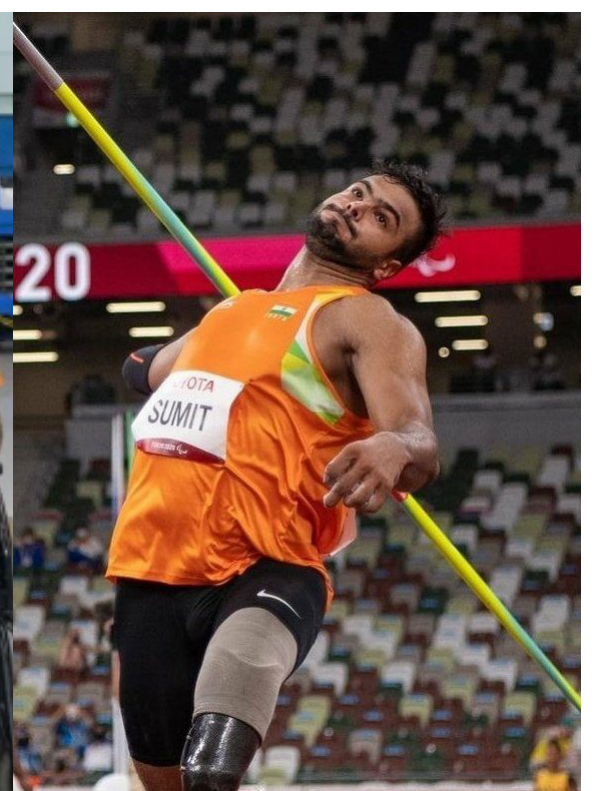
While the medals are pride to India, the courage that dictated their dedication is an inspira-

tion to millions. The victory at the Paralympics led India to obtain the 24th position in Tokyo 2020. This further faded the heated debate on sports education in India that was spurred after India's lower rank in Olympics 2020.

A total of 54 Paralympians from India performed in Tokyo 2020 and each of them earned massive respect from a population of 130 crore people. As compared to Paralympics

2016, the number of participants, as well as the number of medallists have increased causing us to believe in will-power more than physical strength.

Nonetheless, all the Paralympians from 162 nations deserve extraordinary homage for the pride that they bring in with their remarkable efforts. The Paralympics compels us to believe in warriors who have won the battle against life.





## Tokyo games glory: A stepping stone?



A still from Tokyo Paralympics 2020  
Image Courtesy: Google

**Damini Basu**

India takes pride in claiming that in both the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics and the Paralympics, our athletes have recorded their best ever performances respectively. In the Olympics, India finished its medal tally with a historic 7, while the Paralympics tally looked prettier with a whopping 19 medals.

Now, amidst all this glory, can we for once sit back and take a minute to ponder – why is Sports as a career still considered a ‘blasphemy’ in India? Even with such a brilliant show we can see that India still lags way behind China and the USA, who fly away with a record 200+ medals. This is because sports in India is still seen as ‘an unprosperous career’. Parents and educational institutions instill in kids right from tender ages that it is only a medicine or engineering degree that will help them make a name in society. Kids from as young as middle school are forced to prepare for entrance exams, but won’t be made to practice any sort of sport for the welfare of the country.

For all our achievers from both the editions of the Tokyo Summer Games this year, can we not use them as examples to inspire our children and aspiring sportspersons to pursue sports as a viable career? Why is it only men’s cricket that will be our country’s identity? Let’s look inside our homes. Perhaps a young soul is dreaming of a sparkling medal dangling round their neck with the Indian flag flying high, standing on an Olympic podium. Let’s not ruin those dreams.

## Tokyo Paralympics: India records a historic 19 medals from 17 heroes!

**Bhaswan Chatterjee**

India’s previous best figures in one edition of Paralympics games was winning four medals, which instantly reminds us of the 2016 and 1984 editions (with more golds in Rio). This year, India won nearly five times as many in Tokyo! The total number of golds won by India in all the Paralympics before the Tokyo edition was four. This edition itself brought us five golds!

For the Rio Paralympics, India sent a total of 19 athletes which was a record back in those days. Coincidentally, the total number of

medals won this year is also 19! 5 gold medals, 8 silver, and 6 bronze. An unprecedented performance from the Indian contingent claiming a historic 19 medals, to register their best outing ever in the Tokyo Paralympics! Out of the 54 athletes who participated this year, 17 of them won a medal (2 of them winning two medals each- Avani Lekhara won a gold and a bronze while Singhraj Adhana won a silver and a bronze respectively).

### HERE’S THE COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS FROM THE TOKYO PARALYMPICS:

NAME	SPORT	EVENT	MEDAL
Sumit Antil	Athletics	Men’s Javelin Throw – F64	Gold
Pramod Bhagat	Badminton	Men’s Singles SL3	Gold
Krishna Nagar	Badminton	Men’s Singles SH6	Gold
Manish Narwal	Shooting	P4 - Mixed 50m Pistol SH1	Gold
Avani Lekhara	Shooting	R2 - Women’s 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1	Gold
Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men’s Discus Throw - F56	Silver
Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men’s High Jump - T47	Silver
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men’s High Jump - T63	Silver
Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men’s High Jump - T64	Silver
Devendra Jhajharia	Athletics	Men’s Javelin Throw - F46	Silver
Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton	Men’s Singles SL4	Silver
Singhraj Adhana	Shooting	P4 - Mixed 50m Pistol SH1	Silver
Bhavina Patel	Table Tennis	Women’s Singles - Class 4	Silver
Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men’s Individual Recurve - Open	Bronze
Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men’s High Jump - T63	Bronze
Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics	Men’s Javelin Throw - F46	Bronze
Manoj Sarkar	Badminton	Men’s Singles SL3	Bronze
Singhraj Adhana	Shooting	P1 - Men’s 10m Air Pistol SH1	Bronze
Avani Lekhara	Shooting	R8 - Women’s 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1	Bronze



# What is the Taliban?



(Image Source : The Sun)

**Sagnika Das**

As the United States decided to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan after two decades of war, the Taliban group seized power in the country once again, leaving the future of thousands of Afghans in question. On 15th August 2021, after taking over Kabul, the group announced its victory, which undoubtedly has shaken the whole world. Just like, any sudden crisis always pushes us to turn over the pages of history, the question

‘who are the Taliban’ has been found trending on both Google and Twitter.

Predominantly Pashtun, Taliban (means ‘students’) is a radical Islamic fundamentalist group that was formed in 1994 by Afghan Mujahideen whose goal was to impose their radical beliefs in Afghanistan. They emerged in the civil war, which followed the withdrawal of the Soviet Union in 1989 and later collapse of the government. The group and its ideology managed to attract

people in the initial post-soviet era. Two primary founders Mullah Omar and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar led the Taliban movement and took control of Afghanistan in 1996.

Until US and NATO forces invaded in 2001, the Taliban were in charge of Afghanistan. During those 5 years, Afghanistan was turned into an extremist Sharia Law Nation where women were not allowed to work or study or go out without any male guardian. The torturous conditions that the Afghans went through

in those years, is probably the reason behind the uncertainty and fear among the people.

As of now, the leader of the Taliban group is Mawlawi Haibatullah Akhundzada, who is a senior religious cleric from the Taliban’s founding generation. As per the UN report 2021, Taliban still have ties with Al-Qaeda. Although the group has pledged to maintain peace and liberty, experts are still sceptical about whether they will act upon their promise or not.

## A menacing legislature ahead of Afghanistan



(Image Source : Google)

**Farheen Halder**

A significant proportion of the new interim government founded by the Taliban, in its second regime, is occupied by highly formidable members. Nearly

14 representatives of the administration are intimated on the UNSC’s terrorism blacklist. On interrogation, the Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid reinstated that it was only an interim government. Nations across the world are growing wary of the current cabinet that neither has women nor members from the former government nor any other castes belonging to Afghanistan, despite yelling claims of inclusivity. Severe anxiety revolves around the deputy PM and the Interior minister who are remarkably criticised for their past convictions.

Abdul Ghani Baradar was detained in

Pakistan in 2010 and Sirajuddin Haqqani carried a \$10 million US bounty upon him for launching terror attacks. The extremist outfit on the first day of assuming office, banned sports for Afghan women. Renowned women journalists reportedly fled from Afghanistan to evade the Taliban followed by women in the country embarking on street protests to protect their rights. It is widely contemplated that the world may witness developments in Afghanistan traveling back by 20 years. The Taliban government in its very inception manifested operations that contradict its claim of not repeating their deeds of the past. The fate of the country hangs in the balance as world leaders remain sceptical of the intentions and promises of the Taliban whose reputation remains marred by their actions.



## The sudden collapse of the Afghan National Security Forces

Barkha Mishra

A military offensive by the Taliban and allied militant groups against the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its allies began on 1 May 2021.

In the first three months of the offensive, the Taliban made significant territorial gains in the countryside, increasing the number of districts it controlled from 73 to a massive 223. On 6 August, the Taliban launched an assault on the provincial capital of Afghanistan, with most of the towns surrendering without a fight, and it captured all Afghan provincial capitals except Bazarak. On 15 August, President Ashraf Ghani fled the country, and the Taliban captured the Afghan capital Kabul; thus, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's government fell. The Taliban's takeover came as a surprise to many governments, including those of the US, the UK, Germany, and Russia.

The offensive included a continuation of the bottom-up succession of negotiated or paid surrenders to the Taliban from village level upwards that started following the February 2020 US—Taliban Deal. Factors prior to May 2021 included the Tali-

ban's effective use of online social media, its strategic choice of attacking northern provinces, and the Taliban's freedom of movement on the main Afghan highways that resulted from the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) following the US-recommended strategy of sacrificing rural areas in favour of defending key urban centres.

Factors in the ANSF loss to the Taliban included the February 2020 and April 2021 drops in US support, in which technical, and logistics support, in particular aerial support, etc, that the ANSF had been trained to depend on, were suddenly removed. Errors in US coalition training of the ANSF were seen as a factor, along with Afghan police extorting locals and funding themselves by inventing ghost soldiers and the months of unpaid ANSF salaries that followed the April 2021 switch in ANSF salary management to Afghan military administration.

Cronyism in ANSF military appointments and President Ashraf Ghani's inability to create an effective national consensus and convince locwarlords were also seen as key processes of the ANSF's defeat.



(Image Source : Google)

## Afghan women banned from sports: says Taliban



Kamia Yousufi (Image Source : Google)

Rik Chakrabarti

The recent administration shuffle in Afghanistan to the Taliban has already caused a threat among its own citizens and also the news left the world in shock. This sudden outrage has threatened Afghan people, not to mention the stringent rules and violence against Afghan women.

From being banned from their own jobs, to losing the least amount of freedom they have, the Afghan woman took to protests in the capital to fight against such regulations. But to put salt to the wound, a recent source from the Islamist group said that women's sport was considered neither appropriate nor necessary.

According to them, pictures and videos of women playing sports, such as cricket, would spread through the media, which is considered unbecoming to their radical Islamic beliefs. The Afghanistan cricket board have not yet been informed of the doom of the women's cricket team, although the girl's board programme has already been suspended.

This has caused widespread condemnation from other countries, shaming the administrative regime and how they as traditionalists have not changed their views on the women of Afghanistan.

The most important issue pertaining to that of women's rights remains one of the most vital yet endearing sections of the recent regime. This has brought the question whether the Taliban has really changed since their last time in power.



## Game-on CR7! Prodigal son returns home



Cristiano Ronaldo

(Image Source : Google)

**Monidipta Sarkar**

Cristiano Ronaldo returned to Manchester United, on 31st August, Tuesday, after a long overhaul of a 12-year window since 2009, when he left for Real Madrid and later went onto Juventus in 2018. The 36-year-old five-time Ballon d'Or winner was secured by United for a 2-year contract with a signing amount of 15 million euros that could rise to 23 million euros (\$27 million) with an addition of an optional year; as released by Juventus. The football legend had scored 118 goals in 292 matches; back when he

was at United, leading him to his first Ballon d'Or win in 2008. Along with that he won the Champions League Title, three Premier League titles, an FA Cup as well as two League Cups. Leading Portugal to victory in the inaugural UEFA Nations League in 2019; he also bagged the Golden Boot as top scorer of Euro 2020.

The long-awaited Old Trafford is rooting for the jersey of CR7 to craze the crowd once more as the legend steps up for his debut against Newcastle United on September 11th this month. Meanwhile, Ronaldo may play as the centre-forward under the guidance of United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, according to various

reports. Much of his return to his home-team can be attributed to the convincing of his former boss, Alex Fergusson who at first signed Ronaldo in 2003 when he was just a teenager. Ronaldo was quoted to be saying; when he took to Instagram to share his heartfelt moment, "Sir Alex, this one's for you."

We will be witnessing him soon at Old Trafford. But a question arises, whether he will adulate the ground like Messi did in his debut PSG match with Reims on Sunday with no goals or will he create a stir that will seal a new record in his library of wins. Only time will tell.

## The spell that changed the game for India



Jasprit Bumrah

(Image Source : Google)

**Bhaswan Chatterjee**

The fourth test match between India and England at the Oval, London saw India come out with an emphatic victory on

the final day which helped them get a 2-1 lead in the 5-match series. Although Rohit Sharma has been adjudged the man of the match for his maiden test century in the second innings, it is Jasprit Bumrah's short spell post lunch that has grabbed significant eyeballs of fans and experts alike.

Bumrah's short burst of six overs right after lunch on Day 5 consisted of 3 maidens and some dangerous display of reverse swing. While Umesh Yadav and Mohammad Siraj consistently tried to bring the ball back into the English batsmen since the beginning of the day, it was Bumrah who produced some deadly swing using the abrasive nature of the ball. What makes Bumrah's reverse swing lethal, is the tremendous amount of back-spin he

generates because of his particular bowling action. His release point also makes it difficult for the batsman to judge the ball accurately. No wonder Jonny Bairstow and Ollie Pope were completely undone as Bumrah managed to deceive them both with some fine display of swing bowling.

Bumrah was ably assisted by Jadeja who kept pitching the ball consistently on the rough patches, thus generating the ideal conditions for the ball to reverse. But nevertheless, one cannot deny the importance of those two wickets as Bumrah ensured the English middle order is taken care of. Bumrah and Jadeja might have picked up two wickets each, but they provided India the impetus at a very crucial juncture in the game, leading them to a historic win at the Oval.

## Brazil vs Argentina suspended: Argentine players accused of quarantine breach



(Image Source : Google)

**Zaid Ali Nawaz**

The much anticipated match between two of South America's biggest footballing nations, Brazil and Argentina on 6th September, was suspended in controversial fashion after Brazilian health authorities accused a number of Premier League players of violating the country's Covid quarantine rules.

The four players accused, all belonged to the English Premier League and play for Argentina. The accused include Aston Villa's Emiliano Martinez and Emiliano Buendia and Tottenham duo Giovanni Lo Celso and Cristian Romero. Martinez, Celso and Romero were on the pitch of the Neo Quimica Arena, in Sao Paulo as part of the Argentina line-up when officials from Anvisa (Brazil's health regulator) invaded the pitch, 5 minutes after the kickoff.

The players were accused of breaching Brazilian rules stating that travellers who have been to the UK, India or South Africa, 14

days prior to visiting the country are forbidden to enter, unless they are Brazilian or have permanent residency.

The Argentine players had to leave the field, while their captain Lionel Messi along with the coaches were discussing the stoppage with the officials at the sidelines.

Messi was later seen in the media expressing his annoyance, with the way the game was suspended after kickoff. He also said that they should have been informed about the suspension prior to the kickoff as they had been in the country for a couple of days. Anvisa, however, has said that the four Argentine players were instructed to isolate themselves but their instructions were ignored, hence they had to invade the pitch with the help of Brazilian federal police.

South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) has issued a statement saying that the match officials will take a report to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee who will decide what measures need to be taken.

## Britain's Emma wins US Open 2021



Emma Raducanu

(Image Source : Google)

**Srija Chanda**

18 years old, Emma Raducanu defeated the 19 years old Canadian Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-3 in the US Open final Saturday, and won her first Grand Slam championship title.

At such a young age, she surprised everyone with her exceptional performance in winning the championship title. Emma Raducanu, made her Women's Tennis Association main draw debut in June at the 2021 Nottingham Open. She was there as a wild card. With almost no experience at the Women's Tennis Association, her victory comes as a historic surprise to all her fans and colleagues.

After Virginia Wade's Wimbledon victory in 1977, she is the next English woman to win the Grand Slam. Following her triumph, she is now a teen sensation for various young girls like her, to pursue their passion in sports and create wonders.

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