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An Inspirational Journey of Paralympian Pramod Bhagat Towards Arjuna Award to Padma Shri - A Case Study

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Abstract

Successful sports figures inspire others to excel. Individuals subconsciously take notes and learn lessons while watching their favorite players play and talk about their games. These famous Players set standards that others attempt to emulate in their own way. Even people who do not play, take inspiration by the overarching words of these famous sports figures. Their messages and actions often serve as positive encouragement that helps others to persevere despite obstacles. The purpose of the study was to understand the contribution and achievements of Padma Shri Pramod Bhagat towards the game of Para Badminton and its promotion.

The journey of Pramod Bhagat changed his destiny, from being Polio-stricken to become world no 1 in both singles and doubles and dominating the sport like no one has ever seen. Born on 4th June 1988 in Attabira in Bargarh District, Odisha at the home of late Kailash Bhagat and late Kusum Devi, he is one of six brothers and sisters. Tragedy struck when he was five years old as he developed polio, leading to a disability affecting his left leg. Pramod Bhagat started playing badminton in 2002 after watching people play in his neighborhood. His game play was good and was encouraged by spectators, which motivated him to move ahead in his badminton career. He got into the competitive para circuit in 2006 after playing with able-bodied players and beating them. His support both financially and morally was the people from his town and his family. He is a graduate with an ITI degree and is currently working in a government institution. Pramod Bhagat believes that his disability is God's gift and it has helped him achieve heights beyond his abilities. In his career till date, he has won a whopping 107 medals (59 International Medals and 48 National medals). Pramod Bhagat has been honoured with Padma Shri on the eve of 2022 Republic Day. The ace-shuttler had a memorable 2021 year becoming the first Indian badminton player to win a gold in Olympics/ Paralympics. He was also awarded the Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021 and Arjuna Award in 2019. He also holds the no 1 ranking in the SL3 category.

Keywords: Contribution, Achievements, Parabadminton, Pictorial Records, Qualities.

Introduction

Sports are about hard work, determination, commitment, teamwork, practice and a little harder work. To succeed in the world of sport an athlete must be both physically and mentally strong, and this means that all athletes should have an incredibly high drive and strong work ethic. They have all had to sacrifice and work



hard to get to where they are today, with many of them going on particularly difficult journeys to become professional athletes. This makes them fascinating, inspirational and motivational individuals, and over the years there have been many of them which have delivered incredible speeches which have inspired, moved or entertained sports fans around the world.

- International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
- Badminton World Federation (BWF)
- Para Badminton World Federation (PBWF)

Origin of Para-badminton

Para-badminton is a variant of badminton for athletes with a range of physical disabilities. Badminton World Federation (BWF) is the main governing body for Para-badminton starting from June 2011. The sport was governed by Para Badminton World Federation (PBWF) until a unanimous decision to join BWF during a meeting in Dortmund in June 2011. Para badminton is now recognized as a Paralympic sport and has been inaugurated for the first time at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. The Paralympic Games are a major international multi-sport event for athletes with physical disabilities or intellectual impairments. This includes athletes with mobility disabilities amputations, blindness, and cerebral palsy. Paralympic sports refer to organized competitive sporting activities as part of the global Paralympic movement. These sports are organized and run under the supervision of the International Paralympic Committee and other international sports federations.

Badminton Oceania works with our member countries to promote and develop Para badminton in the region including delivering the Disability Module as part of our coach education programme. In 2018, Australia was the first country in Oceania to stage a BWF sanctioned Para badminton tournament; this was followed by the Oceania Para badminton Championships which will be held every second year. Para badminton athletes compete in men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles, where they are classified into one of six different sport classes to ensure fairness in competition.

In Badminton, players who compete in wheelchairs fall under the Sport class of "WH", and athletes who stand while competing, and use their lower limb or upper limb falls under the prefix "SL", and "SU" respectively.



Methodology

A case study was prepared to examine the contribution and achievements of Padma Shri Pramod Bhagat for development of Para Badminton in India. Data or information for this investigation was taken from primary sources such as personal records, photo records, interview, official records and secondary sources. The researcher personally contacted Padmashri Pramod Bhagat before conducting the interview. The main purpose of the interview was to find out about his family background, environmental influences, childhood, and education, participation in sports, sports career and achievements. A self-made open questionnaire was used to get feedback from selected sports personalities and eminent personalities from across the country about Padma Shri Pramod Bhagat. This questionnaire was specially prepared with the help of research experts. Special care was taken to cover as much as possible the data required for the study. Respondents were asked clear and meaningful questions. The questions that were answered by the respondents were transparent and neutral. The integrated approach has been used to gather valid and reliable information for the study. Pramod Bhagat was honored with various national sports award by the president of India for his outstanding achievements in Para Badminton.

Table: 1 Sports Awards of Padma Shri Pramod Bhagat

YEAR	AWARDS
2022	PADMA SHRI
2021	DHYAN CHAND KHEL RATNA AWARD
2020	TOISA – PARA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR
2020	SPORTSTAR ACES AWARD - PARA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR
2019	ARJUNA AWARD
2019	BIJU PATNAIK SPORTS AWARD – BEST PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Table: 2 Sports Achievements of Padma Shri Pramod Bhagat

YEAR	COMPETITON	SINGLES	DOUBLES	MIX DOUBLES
2021	PARALYMPIC GAMES-2020 TOKYO, JAPAN	GOLD	-	-
2021	3 RD FAZZA-DUBAI PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, DUBAI	GOLD	GOLD	BRONZE
2020	BRAZIL PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, SAO PAULO	GOLD	GOLD	-
2020	PERU PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, LIMA	GOLD	GOLD	-
2019	IWAS WORLD GAMES, SHARJAH	GOLD	SILVER	GOLD
2019	5 TH TURKISH PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, ANTALYA	GOLD	BRONZE	-
2019	2 ND FAZZA-DUBAI PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, DUBAI	GOLD	-	-
2019	UGANDA PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, KAMPALA	GOLD	GOLD	-
2019	CANADA PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, OTTAWA	BRONZE	SILVER	-
2019	IRISH PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, DUBLIN	GOLD	GOLD	-
2019	TOTAL BWF PARA BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, BASEL	GOLD	GOLD	-
2019	THAILAND PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, BANGKOK	SILVER	SILVER	-
2019	CHINA PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, HANGZHOU	GOLD	GOLD	-
2019	DENMARK PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, ODENSE	BRONZE	BRONZE	-
2019	JAPAN PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, TOKYO	SILVER	-	-



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2018	1 ST FAZZA- DUBAI PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, DUBAI	SILVER	BRONZE	-
2018	4 TH TURKISH PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, KONYA	BRONZE	BRONZE	-
2018	THAILAND PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, BANGKOK	GOLD	-	-
2018	ASIAN PARA GAMES	GOLD	BRONZE	-
2018	AUSTRALIA PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, VICTORIA	GOLD	SILVER	-
2017	THAILAND PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, BANGKOK	GOLD	SILVER	-
2017	BWF PARA BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, ULSAN	BRONZE	-	-
2016	3 RD INDONESIA PARA BADMINTON INTERNATIONAL, SOLO	GOLD	BRONZE	-
2016	ASIAN PARA BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS, BEIJING	BRONZE	BRONZE	-
2015	BWF PARA BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, LONDON	GOLD	SILVER	-
2014	ASIAN PARA GAMES, INCHEON	BRONZE	-	-
2013	BWF PARA BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, DORTMUND	-	GOLD	-
2010	ASIAN PARA GAMES, GUANGZHOU	PARTICIPATED		
2009	PARA BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, SEOUL	GOLD	-	-
2008	ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, BANGALORE	GOLD	SILVER	-
2007	PARA BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, BANGKOK	BRONZE	BRONZE	-
2006	FESPIC GAMES, KUALA LUMPUR	PARTICIPATED		



Table: 3 Professional Career of Padma Shri Pramod Bhagat

RANK	YEAR	POSTED
Assistant director	2016 TILPRESENT	Employees state insurance cooperation. (EC SI)

Result and Discussion

Information about the relevant results obtained through interviews and open questionnaires about Padma Shri Pramod Bhagat there, over forty sports personalities were selected for him, including his teammates, coaches, supporters, his students, family members, relatives and fellow colleagues. From the information gathered we know that Pramod Bhagat professional career is in at national and international level from 2006 to till present. He also holds the no 1 ranking in the SL3 category from year 2015 onwards. He merely loses his cool and has a lot of patience and perseverance. He has tremendous ability to overcome obstacles and his attitude towards others is very friendly and co-operative. Pramod Bhagat is one the great players in India and is proud of his country. He is a role model for others.

Conclusion

- Padma Shri Pramod Bhagat has been outstanding Para Badminton player.
- Pramod Bhagat is also known for his great patience and true dedication in badminton.
- He is aware of his health and exercise daily to maintain his physical fitness.
- He is very experienced, honest, efficient and strictly disciplined player.
- He has a great relationship with his teammates, coaches, managements and competitors.
- His attitude towards others is very friendly and supportive.
- PramodBhagat is holds ranked as the World No.1 Para-Badminton Player.
- He is a role model for others.



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