

P-ISSN: 2394-1685  
E-ISSN: 2394-1693  
Impact Factor (ISRA): 5.38  
IJPESH 2021; 8(3): 474-477  
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[www.kheljournal.com](http://www.kheljournal.com)  
Received: 13-03-2021  
Accepted: 17-04-2021

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## **A study on Indian archery: An upsurge with reference to different awards**

**Tarun Mondal and Sanjib Mridha**

#### **Abstract**

As per revised guidelines issued by Govt. of India, Archery has been one of the six priority sport events selected for promotion as sports in India. Archery has gained much popularity and have become interesting for the spectators who enjoy such championships and wide coverage of the same through the Media. Archery today is played as serious professional sports in India- regional level, national level. Such events are periodically conducted to unravel new talent. So, researcher, in this study tried to find the scenario of Indian archery and recognized faces whose contribution cannot be overstated to know the game in this nation. Beside this many sports awards are given by the govt. of India and many private organizations. There are five sports awards conferred to the sport persons for their extraordinary performance and contribution in the field of sports by the government of India. Researcher conducted to evaluate the performance of Archers who were awarded with different sports awards and civilian awards by the government of India (both male and female) since from the inception of Arjuna Awardees in 1961 to 2017, and also try to understand the position of Indian badminton and its prosperity. The study is fully descriptive in nature.

**Keywords:** Archery, sports awards, civilian awards

#### **Introduction**

The history of archery can be traced back to the ancient civilization, when bows and arrows were used as a weapon to hunt wild animals and used at the warfare. The heroic efforts of the archers at the battlefield helped gain triumph over several kingdoms. Studies suggest pines serves as the arrows in the ancient times, because they consisted of a long fore shaft and a flint point. According to the history of archery, bows were first developed in either early years of the Mesolithic age or the late Paleolithic age. The use of bow and arrow were well explained in the Indian great epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. The oldest bow used by archers is native to Denmark. Archeologists have discovered arrow shafts in many countries where archery was prevalent, which includes Egypt, Sweden, and Denmark. Archery was also developed in Asia and other Islamic kingdoms. Modern FITA/Olympic Archery came to India in 1970 before the game had been chosen as part of the Olympic discipline in Munich, West Germany in 1972. Archery Association of India has come to existence on 8th August, 1973 with the objective to organize, encourage, promote and control the Sports of Archery in India and to provide ancillary facilities to Archers for training. Right from its inception, Archery Association of India is engaged in the upliftment of this ancient game in India.

There are five sports awards conferred to the sport person for their extraordinary performance and contribution in the field of sports by the government of India. The national award conferred by the ministry of youth affairs of sports Government of India in order of priority are - Khel Ratna Award (1991), Dronacharya award (1985), Arjuna Award (1961) Dhyan Chand Award (2002) and Rastrio Khel Protsahan Puraskar. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna is the highest sports award in country, is conferred in the memory of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This award was started giving to the outstanding sports performance to motivate and moral boosting to the sports person of India. Dronacharya Award is given field of coaching and teaching of sports in India. This award first introduced in the year 1985. Arjuna award is the first sports award of India, instituted in 1961. It carries a bronze medal, a statue of Arjuna and a certificate along with a cash of Rs- 15 lakh for at least three to four years of continuous performance in international standard whereas Dhyan chand award is given in sports for lifetime achievement.

This award is conferred in the name of hockey wizard Major Dhyansingh from the year 2002.

Researcher conducted to evaluate the performance of archers who were awarded different sports awards and civilians award by the government of India (both male and female) in selected events since from the inception of Arjuna Awardee in 1961 to 2020, and also try to understand the position of Indian badminton and its prosperity.

**Statement of the problem:** In the present study researcher only dealt with selected archers who were conferred different sports awards along with civilian awards to understand upsurge of the game badminton in India thus the study was entitled as "A study on Indian Archery: an upsurge with reference to different awards."

#### Purpose of the study

- To find out the scenario of Indian Archery
- To know the awards conferred by the government of India
- To know the sports personalities related to the game
- To considered the contribution of archers to their nation
- To know the social contribution of the players and the coaches related to the game.

**Delimitation of the study:** There were certain factors deliberately controlled for conducting the study. The delimitations with which the present study conducted were:

- Though the study was related to different sports award but only given priority to the sports award and civilian awards conferred by the Ministry of India.
- The researcher had restricted and controlled the present study within the boundary of a limited period time since the inception of Arjuna Award (1961).

The present study was carried out under some unavoidable limitations. These were as follows: Since the present research project is purely a historical and descriptive in nature the researcher was solely depended upon different facts and information available from various secondary sources.

**Literature Review:** A bow is mainly made up of 3 main parts which is the riser, limbs and the string. Riser is the part which is located at the middle which is also called as the grip due to its function. The part which is located on both sides of the riser is called as the limbs. Where, when it is hold vertically, the upper part is called the upper limb whereas the lower part is called the lower limb. A string is fastened at both ends of the upper and lower limbs at a certain amount of force (Kooi, 1983). According to Campbell (2010), a composite material can be defined as a combination of two or more materials that results in better properties than those of the individual components used alone. Whereas, Roylance (2000) states that

composite can be mean by everything since all materials composed of dissimilar subunits if examined at close enough detail.

**Methodology:** In the present study the investigations were conducted to evaluate upsurge of Indian archery the performance of archers who were awarded different sports awards and civilian awards by the government of India only (both male and female) in selected events since from the inception of Arjuna Awardee in 1961 and also try to understand the position of Indian badminton and its upsurge.

**Sampling:** All the players (both male & female) who had represented nations and distinction earn and the coaches who produce top national or international level players for nation in the Games of archery taken into consideration for this study.

#### Criterion Measure

Archery falls under the indispensable category in Indian sports because this sport is widely practiced across India. It was hard to analyse all the awardees within the limited scope of this research work. So, the investigator delimited the events and restricted his survey to the following award only:

**Table 1:** List of Awards for the Sportspersons by the Govt. of India

Sports Award	Civilian Awards
Arjuna Award	Padma Shri
Dronacharya Award	Padma Bhusan
Rajib Gandhi Khel artna	Padma Bibhusan
Dhyansingh Award	Bharat Ratna

#### Archery

The researcher tried to find the archers in reference to different sports and civilian awards by the government of India (both male and female) since from the inception of Arjuna Award in 1961 to 2020, and also try to understand the position of Indian archery and its prosperity.

**Table 2:** Male and Female Arjuna Awardees in Archery in Different Decades

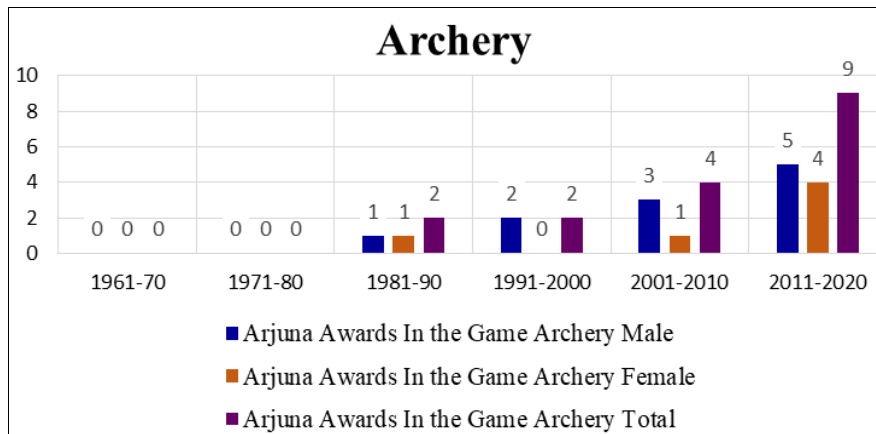
Year	Name	Year	Name
1981	Krishna Das	2011	Rahul Banerjee
1989	Harish Nargunri	2012	Laishram Bombayla Devi
1991	Baba Shraavan Kishore	2012	Deepika Kumari
1992	Sanjeev Kumar Singh	2013	Chekrovolu Swuro
2005	Tarun Deep Rai	2014	Avishek Verma
2005	Dola Banerjee	2015	Sandeep Kumar
2006	Jayanta Talukdar	2016	Rajesh Chouhan
2009	Mangal Singh Champia	2017	V J Surekha
		2020	Atanu Das

**Table 3:** List of the recipients of others national Sport Awards and Civilian Awards in the game of Archery

Khel Ratna Award	Dronacharya Award	Dhyansingh Award	Civilian award
Nil	Sanjeev Kumar Singh (2007)	Satyadev Prasad (2018)	Limba Ram (2012)
	Purnima Mahato (2013)	C. Lalremsanga (2020)	Deepika Kumari (2016)
	Dharmendra Tiwari (2020)	-	-

**Table 4:** Male and Female Arjuna Awardees in Archery in Different Decades

Arjuna Award in the game of Archery			
Decade	Male	Female	Total
1961-70	0	0	0
1971-80	0	0	0
1981-90	1	1	2
1991-2000	2	0	2
2001-2010	3	1	4
2011-2020	5	4	9



**Fig 1:** Male and Female Arjuna Awardees in the game of Archery in Different Decades

With the taste of regular international competitions and the interest shown in this and other games by the Sports Authority of India, a number of promising and talented archers emerged on the scene pinched mainly from the rural belt of India. Archers like Limba Ram, Shyam Lal, Smt Krishna Ghatak, Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Lalrem Sanga Changte have brought laurels for the country. They also performed well in the Barcelona Olympic games (1992) where Limba Ram won ranking among the top six archers of the world in ranking. Still now, the total number of Arjun Awardees in Archery is 17, out of which seven are women. So, women's performance was better in respect of men and other games. In the history of sixty-year total awardee in each decade- 1961-1970 number of awardee- 0, 1971-1980 number of awardee- 0, 1981-1990 number of awardee-02 1991-2000 number of awardee- 02, 2001-2010 number of awardee -04, and 2011-2020 number of awardee – 09.

From the above table and it is clear that the game archery started developing in term of achievement from the decade of 1980 when archers were internationally occupying position in different global events. The first National meet under FITA rules was organized in New Delhi in the year 1973 where 50 Archers participated. Archer used bamboo Bow and Arrows mainly made in Meghalaya and West Bengal. The Bengal Archers were to the fore with their superior techniques and practice. It took roots in India through the sincere efforts of the Chief Executive Councilor of Delhi, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra of that time.

Chief Executive Councilor Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Secretary General Shri Gopesh Mehra introduced Archery in Asia and Asian Archery Federation was introduced in Bangkok during the Asian Games in 1978. Shri Malhotra was elected as the first President of the Federation and Shri P.N. Mukherjee as first Secretary General. India hosts the maiden Asian meet in Calcutta in 1980. The game Archery progressed in leaps and bounds until mid-80s when got it a shot in their arm with most archers acquiring modern sophisticated equipment. The taste of regular international competitions and the interest shown in this and other games by the Sports Authority of India, a number of promising and talented archers emerged on the scene pinched mainly from the rural belt of India. Archers like Limba Ram, Shyam Lal, Smt Krishna Ghatak, Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Lalrem Sanga Changte have brought laurels for the country. They also performed well in the Barcelona Olympic Games (1992) where Limba Ram won ranking among top six archers of the world in ranking.

As per revised guidelines issued by Govt. of India, Archery has been one of the six priority sport events selected for

promotion as sports in India. Archery has gained much popularity and have become interesting for the spectators who enjoy such championships and wide coverage of the same through the Media

### Conclusions

- Archery Association of India is affiliated with the Indian Olympic Association, International Archery Federation & Asian Archery Federation having its 27 State Archery Associations and 06 other Para-Military Forces and other voluntary organizations.
- It is very popular in the States like W.B., Bihar, U.P Manipur, Punjab, Haryana, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Kerala, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Delhi etc.
- Archery has now been included in the Inter-University and Inter-School Competitions and Railway Sports Control Board, All India Police Sports Board, Indo-Tibetan Border Security Force has recently included Archery as one of the disciplines. Other Para-military forces *viz.* CRPF and CISF are also advised to adopt Modern Archery as their main Sports discipline and to set up Modern training facilities at their respective Centres.
- The natural marksmanship inculcated among the Para-military forces & other organizations will surely play a major role in improving the performance in Modern Archery also.
- Several Players are doing well in the international arena of archery from India. This game can be a serious career option for many. Looking at its recent performance, India could bring home multiple medals in Olympics. We are waiting for a story of praise of Indian archery as the future powerhouse of world archery.

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