

Guru Purnima

The simplest gesture of gratitude!

A day to honor the 'Gurus' of our life, Guru Purnima falls every year on the full moon day in the Ashadha month of the Hindu calendar 24th of July, 2021 will mark this year's Guru Purnima with the hopes of dispelling the darkness of ignorance and ushering in the light of knowledge.

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The Hindu mythology contemplates this day as an auspicious one for seeking the blessings of Sage Ved Vyasa, the Maha-Guru who is believed to be the author of the Mahabharata and the Puranas.

Buddhist legends believe Gautama Buddha to have delivered his first sermon to his first five disciples, forming the 'Sangha' or group of disciples on this very day, and Jain folklore traces the day back to when Lord Mahavira became the Guru to his first disciple, Gautam Swami.

Guru Purnima is celebrated in different ways among people of different faiths. Hindus terming it "Vyasa Puja", they chant mantras, songs, hymns and recite the Gita, a holy text, to venerate the Maha Guru and seek his blessings. Buddhists celebrate Guru Purnima by conducting a ritual called 'Uposatha', honoring the eight teachings of Buddha.

All are tied together by the single golden thread of gratitude with the yearning to reciprocate the priceless teachings of our Gurus with tokens of appreciation and respect.

Contemporary Life and The Life-Long Learning

"Everyone is my teacher. Some I seek. Some I subconsciously attract. Often I learn simply by observing others. Some maybe completely unaware that I'm learning from them, yet I bow deeply in gratitude."

-- Eric Allen

We are perennial students of life and everyone we meet has something valuable to teach us. From our parents, supporting our plump bodies on their feet guiding our first steps to our teachers, holding the pencil in our tiny hands steering letter formation, we are a blend of teachings.

The Covid-19 pandemic left the world upended and without downplaying the tragedies it has caused; we must believe that there's no perfect time to say 'thank you!' except right now.

So this year, convey your indebted appreciation to all the gurus of your life and vow to never stop learning, for that will aid you to consciously choose your values, rely on them as you set goals and consider opportunities, laying a solid foundation of life.

Perfectly put by Anthony J. D'Angelo, *"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."*

For who are we, if not the sum total of all our life's learnings and teachings. Each experience adding a new color of a 'lesson learned' from the palette of adventures to our canvases of life.

All shades in splendid harmony.



Happy Farewell

Batch of 2021

Message for the students

-Prof. Dr. Ritesh Kumar Singhal

Associate Professor & Prof-in-charge of Sydenham College Alumni Cell

Congratulations to all the Graduating students from B. Com, BMS & BBI, the last batch of Mumbai University from the academic year 2020-21. Your batch will go down in the history of the Sydenham College,

not because it is the final batch of Mumbai University, but also because for the past one year your education has been online. We are all living in this difficult pandemic situation, but with God's grace, things will return to normal soon. This difficult time will also pass.

Many of you have spent only two years of your college life inside the campus where you made friends with your batchmates. But those few amongst you have made the most of it and have actually achieved a lot of things in the campus life by meaningfully engaging with stakeholders of the college and intellectually stimulating the self. Till now the college took care of you as your guardian, but now you have to prove yourself to the outside world. This is where your education, your college friends will help you to achieve the desired results of what you aim for.

I will quote our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi; "Learning from experience and learning from education, both are important. Your education and values decide how you learn from your experiences".



I give my best wishes to all of you, may you all achieve the desired progress and satisfaction in your life.

Message
by the
students

Favourite Hello & Hardest Goodbye: Sydenham

Himani Rahalkar B.Com Batch (2018-2021)

Situated on the B-road of the magical city, Mumbai, Sydenham welcomes students with open arms and a big heart. I still remember how I stood outside the college's building for the first time with dreams and hopes in my eyes. I was new to the city and was amazed by the vicinity around the college. Little did I know that this place is going to be my second home and the people here will be my second family.

Sydenham played an integral part in making me who I am today. I learned a lot through the people I met, all the professors, and my friends. From eating in the canteen and JSF to running up and down in the building during fests, three years just flew by. One of my fondest memory is dancing backstage in the auditorium and being at the podium. I also enjoyed being a part of the English Literary Club, NSS, Public Speaking and Debating Society, Alumni Cell, and the Editorial Team. All these experiences have been an adventure that I will always miss. After all, aching feet, a cup of tea, and sitting on Marine Drives with your friends is simply the purest form of love I know.



Message
by the
students

Woh din bhi kya din the!

Anuja Mathur BMS Batch (2018-2021)

"There was never a day with a plan, yet every day was abuzz."

There's something about Mumbai, it welcomes you warmly but still instills in you the power to face Challenges and eagerness to succeed. We have a newfound voice with all freedom, Dreams, and a spark to take over the world.

My 3 years revolved around Sydenham with its Civility and Charm. It gave me the confidence to step out of my comfort zone gradually and smoothly.

"Children Remember! You'll have a personality change in these 3 years if you promise to work hard on yourself." These were the words, my professor in charge welcomed us with. And truly, it was a pivotal shift in personhood.

I'm glad to be able to hold many positions and give justice to them. From being a Class Representative, Vice Head in fests, Communication Manager in Tedx, Public Relations Head in Alumni Cell to being the Placement Coordinator; the amount of fun and excitement each of these roles gave me is overwhelming.

One of the Best Memories to share would be the preparation of Events. You'll find every person painting, arranging,



creating, and analyzing just before the event commences. This feeling of togetherness is worth experiencing. Another awaited moment was the completion of any fest. Every person grooves to the music, enjoys the songs, and then cries on Yaaro Dosti! At that very moment, we realize the friendships we've created, the journey we've been onto, and the number of bonds we are going to cherish in the Future.

Lectures to fests, exploring the neighbouring places, sitting on Marines after the lectures on a quotidian basis, eating in ISH, sitting in CR2 for hours, Industrial Visits- we were all just living the moment.

Everything I am today, has a major contribution of my college and the atmosphere it has, filled with droplets of hard work and sincerity mixed with nervousness and excitement. My Professors, batchmates along with seniors & juniors were the most supportive giving a convivial environment to grow and nourish.

I feel unfortunate not being able to relive these moments of fun, fear, and excitement with my bunch of crazy friends ONE LAST TIME due to COVID.

Message
by the
students

The days to cherish forever

Muskaan Kanojia BMS Batch (2018-2021)



Sydenham, the name in itself, brings prestige to every student who has been a part of this incredible institution. I couldn't be more thankful to the faculty and colleagues for bringing out the best in me.

Amongst the societies I've worked for team Alumni Cell will always be close to my heart. A place where you can be yourself, work, and learn from exceptionally talented members.

Despite the pandemic, we've diligently worked together and conducted various activities which were appreciated by our fellow Sydenhamites and Alumni. As the design head, designing the monthly edition of "The Sydenhamite" was always exciting. My days at Sydenham have been a blend of unforgettable moments. The moments I shall cherish forever with the maniacs I met on the first day of college, my squad. Be it a last-minute project submission or having cutting chai in that 15 min break we've enjoyed every bit of it together.

My College - My Gurukul

- Mr. Gautam Puri Batch 1970



I was wondering how 50 years can be condensed into 1000 words. The credit obviously goes to Mrs. Kazi & Dr. Mahishi who taught us English in 1st year & final year.

Sydenham college was an all in one package at the top of the educational institutions of our country.

All the professors taught us economics so well that the value of money became a life mantra no matter how wealthy or ordinary the student was. Professor Merchant taught us Mercantile Law - a very learned individual himself. His Chevrolet car was a trademark. His valuable tips included how to remain not out in fraud and forgery.

Ms. Nagporwala was another brilliant professor who got us to understand the definition of Money. She taught us that:

Money has 4 functions:

MEDIUM of exchange

MEASURE: 1₹ = 100 paise

STANDARD: Negotiable

STORE: Bank or LOCKER or cupboard at home

Prof. Leena Desai (never seen her smiling) was an excellent teacher.

Some valuable tips were given by Prof. Abhyankar. The collapsing economy of the nation and personal budget made an impact on learning & helped me in the years to come.

Prof. Gabhe taught that Money is what Money buys? He was excellent in commercial letter writing as well. Prof. Lakdawala taught us lessons on salesmanship which we all practice & succeed.

The faculty for all four years was amazing.

How can we forget Accounts being taught by Prof. Bansi Mehta, Prof. Ghatalia & Prof. Damania with ease of a wizard which they were & without any reference paper- Remarkable!

I salute them all.

Sydenham was amazing in academics. Having taken part in Hockey & Football representing college in inter-college tournaments, I became the hockey secretary for one year & the college Gymkhana Assistant General Secretary the other year.

I reasonably excelled in athletics but not so to beat Leslie Lewis another athlete of our college then. I remember I flicked a start once but held back till Leslie moved & he will confirm that.

I took part in the Hindi day and college day celebrations. Having performed at RANG BHAVAN on college day function in the Bhangra as the lead dancer.

There were moments of ecstasy & moments of despair.

I would come home from college & listen to Paul Anka 45rpm 'You are my destiny' & I must've listened to it over lakh times in that period of some months.

Of course not forgetting the studies & classroom. I did reasonably well in class & outside on the wall.

I think I got reasonably good marks. All or most of the students went on to do CA & MBA etc. I Joined business & the only thing that I could do along with was M.Com. The classes were in the evening again at Sydenham.

I opened a few showrooms distributing Bath fittings & Sanitary ware which I still do ... distributing JAQUAR & HINDWARE products along with some international brands.

I was appointed a SPECIAL EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE for almost 25 years at a stretch.

Have been associated with the Maharashtra State Anti TB Association and have been on the committee for several years. TB being the single largest killer in the country. I have also enrolled as the Vice President of the Indian Red Cross Society. I have been working for the Indian Red Cross Bombay branch for over 2 decades.

In this 1st lockdown, we created an excellent 2500 square ft showroom for retailing being one of the best in trade-in amchi Mumbai at Mazgaon. There is a humongous growth in this field and so many international players have made India their market. But it is a matter of pride that Jaquar is the market leader still with 60% of the market share. They do not sell directly.

They sell to their distributors like us. We are one of the oldest associated with them from their inception in 1960-61. When imports were banned & Indian industry came into existence. Jaquar is the Indian multinational now present in over 40 countries. Having their display Centers in London, Moscow, Milan, Oman, UAE just to name a few.

It is the studies at Sydenham that molded our character, the extracurricular activities that added all-round development of mind. The games provided us the opportunity to excel in building our stamina & appetite to do the best.

Along the way made a lot of friends & associations who have been supportive & encouraging in all the endeavors I have undertaken. Sydenhamites always have an influence and the character of helping and promoting colleagues and associates.

How can I not mention my lovely wife Veena who has been with me through all these years? A graduate in music, we have a perfect understanding with my love for dancing.

She sings and I dance. I dance to her tune. The bond is still as strong as always.

Moving back to talking about college! One cannot forget the canteen. The favorite idli sambhar for almost nothing, it was so tasty, the popular usal/ misal pav. A bottle of coke at that would come at an unimaginably cheap price of 25 paise. We would tilt the bottle and take a swig one at a time, till the bottle was over. That style is still practiced and many still find it unique.

Even today all that learning at Sydenham is shaping decisions to innovate & experiment.

Thank you, Sydenham!



What makes Sydenham College so unique?

- Mr. Kunverji Kanji Patel Batch 1973



It is almost 48 years since I left that glorious institution, but what is it about Sydenham that makes me feel a part of it, even today, sitting over 5000 miles away from the college.

I came to Mumbai, for the first time in April 1969, staying at Ellora Guest House in Tel Gali, in Vithal wadi paying 3 Rs a night! I had my Cambridge School certificate with me, after completing my High School from Mombasa.

Someone told me that there were two good colleges in Churchgate, Jai Hind and Sydenham. I did not fancy science, so I chose Sydenham by default. Miss Lakdawala, a bespectacled lady, was conducting the interviews. I got through the interview, paid the fees on the first floor and then went to C Road Churchgate to secure a hostel accommodation at the Government College Hostel.

It was a regular protocol for the college Principal to address the First -year students in the Auditorium on the first day of college. Mr. S D Bal was a well- mannered, quiet, and he soon made us feel at home. He said that Sydenham had certain values and policies on rigid discipline, like morning roll call, wearing decent clothes, and respect for all professors. He asked us to participate in various extra-curricular activities and social groups.

Sydenham faculty had many such social and cultural clubs or groups, like Gujarati Sahitya Mandal, Dramatics society, J C Gupta Aharika, Philatelic society of which Rajul and Ashok Nallawala were key members, music society, Hindi society, Co-Op Stores, Marathi Mandal and the most famous of all, which my foreign friends and I went on to form, SOSA (Sydenham Overseas Students Association)



There was a Talent Contest, for the First Year Students, held in the auditorium. This was to encourage students to present their items, like Eastern vocal, Eastern Instrumental, drama skits etc., My friends encouraged me to sing a song from 'Guide'. As soon as the curtain opened, I noticed my favourite professor, Zebunissa Kazi, sitting in the front row, as one of the judges. She and I had a bad rapport, as she used to throw us out of her class. (Me, Mulloo and Firoze) for being a nuisance, playing music in the back rows. She started nodding her head and made me so nervous that I forgot the tune of my song, and paper arrows started flying from across the auditorium, one sticking firmly in my hair.

The college canteen was the top favourite for all of us. Hot and fresh samosas with Imli- chutney were everyone's favourites. Mr. Nagesh was so welcoming to all students. We used to spend quite a bit of time there or in the upstairs library, not to study but to line maro girls. It took me time to realise why so many girls and boys found their marriage partners from within the college. Well done Sydenham!

Ms. Usha Hemadi was just too good. Very quiet and charming, never too harsh even with distractors. She taught us Rudyard Kipling's novel '1984' as part of our English literature. Even today, I still remember the main characters: Winston and Julia. Hats off to her.

There was Professor Mehta, whose Golden Rules of Book-Keeping are still fresh in my mind: debit what comes in and credit what goes out, debit the receiver and credit the giver and for bank reconciliation: Do whatever has not been done!

As foreign students, we had no society to represent us. Vir Mulloo and I came up with the idea of SOSA. We took the idea to Principal Bal. He listened intently and said, there are too many societies already, and all professors were busy. We managed to convince him that SOSA will flourish, and Professor Belsare had agreed to be the Patron. The Principal agreed. We had the showing of very first movie, Aradhna, in the college auditorium.



SOSA became very active after that. We arranged trips to Ajanta Ellora and Goa and invited outside students.

Dancing was not allowed in the social hall. We convinced Principal Bal that in order to arrange a social gathering and create a better understanding between Indians and foreign students, we should be allowed to have dances. This was agreed as well. It was a very popular event.



To conclude, in the four years that I spent in Sydenham, I became very confident, extrovert and very popular with all the students of every year. The Faculty was unique in training the students, in academic as well as other activities. The Principal was an excellent leader and all the professors were too good, which helped us bond together. This bondage is existent even after 50 years. Mulloo, Firoze and I planned a 50-year re-union in Sydenham in April 2019, and to our surprise, 60 of our classmates, some from Mauritius, USA, Australia and Dubai, agreed to join. That was very pleasing.

A Slice of Life Eating out during College Days

Mr. Mozam P Murzban Batch 1981



One of the tastiest Chole bhature preparations could be relished at a roadside stall, at the beginning of B. Road, Churchgate, the lane which goes to Sydenham college. Real Kabuli channas, soaked and boiled overnight in tea leaves to give the right flavor and color, smoky dark brown. When onion, chilies, and ginger fried along with thick gravyish channa are served with the luscious bhature (semi brownish with a tinge of crispness present). Slight lime squeezed on top. Eaten on the building small wall opposite our stall... what a preparation Sirjee!

This was a Monday specialty during college days. Cream Centre then (70's) and even now (2021) thrills all tastebuds with this delicacy. Our favorite vegan meal.

Sydenham was the college we graduated from and Satkar restaurant was our F&B institute where we visited nearly every day. Students from Sydenham College, Jai Hind College, crowd traveling via train, tourists, families, etc. comprised the complete clientele of Satkar.

Puri Bhaji made with Sukha batata, Gilla batata and those golden brown Puris were to crave for. Medu vadas fried every half an hour- they were so tasty and crunchy. Idlis steamed every 40 minutes, so fluffy, that they would melt in the mouth when eaten with an orangish-brown sambhar...yes like the homemade sambhar (many a time I would hog on sambhar and rice only, its delicious). Vitthal Bhai Kamat's first love, his first restaurant which was personally supervised by him every morning and evening. We also have some fond memories of chomping on a veg burger. It is a simple preparation of a veg potato cutlet placed in a burger bread along with tomato, lettuce, and a tinge of mustard embedded on the bread. When eaten with wafers and fruit sauce, it's my all-time favorite. Other delicacies feasted weekly were Aloo Channa, Paneer Makhani, Veg Korma, Veg Pulav etc.



On Saturday and Sunday, family crowd would line up for Satkar's Vegetable Au Gratin preparation. It is baked in cheese and butter delicacy with potatoes, mushrooms, cauliflower, and carrots added making it a tongue-tingling preparation.

Mornings would begin with Vada sambhar or Gunpowder idli or Mysore masala or Puri bhaji or Punjabi samosa or our all-time favorite Jam Butter bread. Evenings would end with a mosambi juice, it's so refreshing! Yes, Satkar was truly our evergreen favorite.

The first ice cream parlor in Bombay began in 1979 on the lawns of Hotel Natraj. It was named Yankee Doodle and those were the days when families came out every night to feast on YD's different ice cream flavors. They had cute round tables (about 8) with seating for 2. Two giant swings for us to swing away the afternoon singing O'Bladi... O'Blada!



TOKYO Olympics 2020

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics are just around the corner.
But, wait ... aren't we in the year 2021?
What's with the Olympics still using 2020?

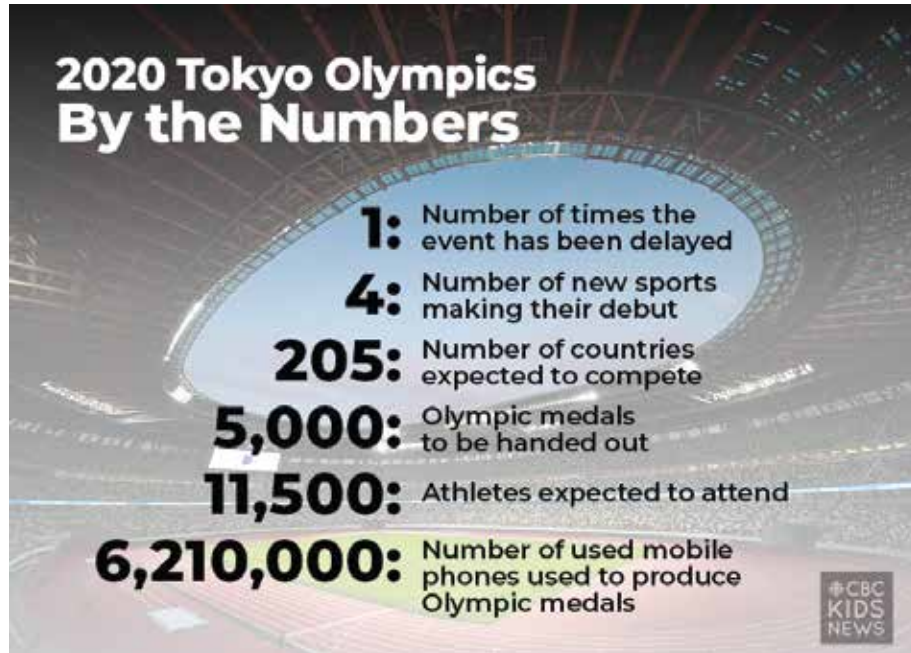


The Tokyo Olympics was supposed to occur in 2020, and when the deferment was declared, the coordinators delivered an articulation saying they would continue to utilize 2020. They also said the Olympic flame would stay in Tokyo as a beacon of hope for the world. It's also worth noting that keeping 2020 avoids any changes to all of the logos, branding, and marketing that had gone into the Games before they were postponed. Let's dig deeper into what you need to know about the upcoming Summer Games.

WHEN AND WHERE?

Tokyo, the city with the largest population in the world is hosting the Summer Games, and events will take place within the city and its surrounding area.

The Games kick off with the opening ceremony on July 23 and run until the closing ceremony on August 8.



PANDEMIC RULES

Because of the global COVID-19 pandemic, these Games are going to be different than previous ones.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that anyone attending the Summer Olympics should be fully vaccinated.

No international fans will be allowed to attend the Games.

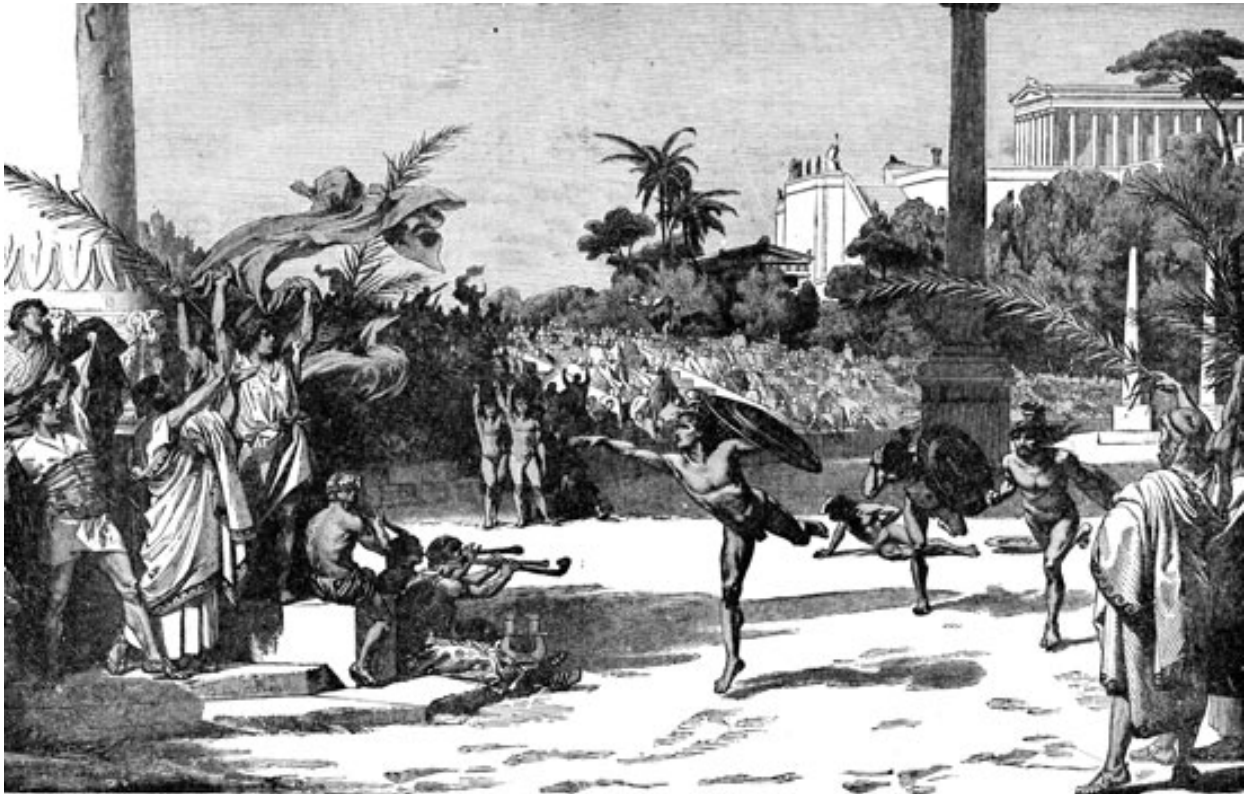
Local organizers are waiting until after the state of emergency currently in place in Tokyo is lifted to decide if local fans will be allowed to attend events.

History of the Olympic games

While we are on the subject of Olympics, let us dive deeper into the history of these majestic games and learn about the inception of this wonderful competition.

The Olympic Games, which was originated in ancient Greece 3,000 years ago, were revived in the late 19th century and have become the world's preeminent sporting competition. From the 8th century B.C. to the 4th century A.D., the Games were held every four years in Olympia, located in the western Peloponnese peninsula, in honor of the god Zeus. The first modern Olympics took place in 1896 in Athens and featured 280 participants from 13 nations, competing in 43 events. Since 1994, the Summer and Winter Olympic Games have been held separately and have alternated every two years.

The first written records of the ancient Olympic Games date to 776 B.C. when a cook named Coroebus won the only event—a 192-meter footrace called the stade (the origin of the modern “stadium”)—to become the first Olympic champion. However, it is generally believed that the Games had been going on for many years by that time. Legends say that Heracles (the Roman Hercules), son of Zeus and the mortal woman Alcmene founded the Games, which by the end of the 6th century B.C. had become the most famous of all Greek sporting festivals.



The ancient Olympics were held every four years between August 6 and September 19 during a religious festival honoring Zeus. The Games were named for their location at Olympia, a sacred site located near the western coast of the Peloponnese peninsula in southern Greece. Their influence was so great that ancient historians began to measure time by the four-year increments in between Olympic Games, which were known as Olympiads.

After 13 Olympiads, two more races joined the stade as Olympic events: the diaulos (roughly equal to today's 400-meter race), and the dolichos (a longer-distance race, possibly comparable to the 1,500-meter or 5,000-meter event). The pentathlon (consisting of five events: a foot race, a long jump, discus and javelin throws, and a wrestling match) was introduced in 708 B.C., boxing in 688 B.C., and chariot racing in 680 B.C. In 648 B.C., pankration, a combination of boxing and wrestling with virtually no rules, debuted as an Olympic event. Participation in the ancient Olympic Games was initially limited to freeborn male citizens of Greece; there were no women's events, and married women were prohibited from attending the competition.

THE OLYMPICS THROUGH THE YEARS

The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896. In the opening ceremony, King Georgios I and a crowd of 60,000 spectators welcomed 280 participants from 13 nations (all male), who would compete in 43 events, including track and field, gymnastics, swimming, wrestling, cycling, tennis, weightlifting, shooting and fencing. All subsequent Olympiads have been numbered even when no Games took place (that is in 1916, during World War I, and in 1940 and 1944, during World War II). The official symbol of the modern Games is five interlocking-colored rings, representing the continents of North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and Australia. The Olympic flag, featuring this symbol on a white background flew for the first time at the Antwerp Games in 1920.

The Olympics truly took off as an international sporting event after 1924, when the VIII Games were held in Paris. Some 3,000 athletes (with more than 100 women among them) from 44 nations competed that year, and for the first time, the Games featured a closing ceremony. The Winter Olympics debuted that year, including such events as figure skating, ice hockey, bobsledding, and the biathlon. Eighty years later, when the 2004 Summer Olympics returned to Athens for the first time in more than a century, nearly 11,000 athletes from a record 201 countries competed. In a gesture that joined both ancient and modern Olympic traditions, the shotput competition that year was held at the site of the classical Games in Olympia.



HOW TEAM INDIA IS SHAPING UP

Celebrated boxer MC Mary Kom and men's hockey team skipper Manpreet Singh will be flag bearers at the opening ceremony of Tokyo Olympics. One of India's biggest hopes, wrestler Bajrang Punia will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony on August 8. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has communicated the decision in this regard to the Organising Committee of the Games. In a first, India is having two flag-bearers -- one male and one female -- at the upcoming Tokyo Games to ensure "gender parity".

The Indian Hockey team is shaping very well for the Olympics and will surely be eyeing on the podium finish. The Archery team is not behind as they too will be eyeing on grabbing a couple of medals as three Indian archers qualified for the men's events by reaching the quarterfinal stage of the men's team recurve at the 2019 World Archery Championships in's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands. P.V. Sindhu would also be looking to grab a medal in Women's singles, while Neeraj Chopra who marked his return from injury by setting a new national record in Javelin throw (88.07m), will surely be looking to set the stage on fire again in the Olympics.





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