



**Mrs Nita M Ambani: “For the first time, 140 Olympic and Paralympic athletes have come together on the same platform. United in Triumph, United in Celebration and United in the Inclusive Spirit of Sport.”**

***\*Reliance Foundation Hosts an Unprecedented Celebration of India's Olympians and Paralympian's and their Inspirational Journeys\****

**Mumbai, September 30, 2024:** In a landmark moment for Indian sports, Reliance Foundation, under the visionary leadership of Mrs. Nita M. Ambani, hosted *United in Triumph*—an evening celebrating equality and excellence through the unifying power of sport—on Sunday, September 29, 2024, at Antilia, Mumbai.

**Here is the link to images of Mrs. Ambani and athletes from the event:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vIH5wCdiRyggV19rODP9M7XigRbMlyI5>

**Here is the link to Mrs. Ambani being presented with the Paris 2024 Paralympic Torch:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vIH5wCdiRyggV19rODP9M7XigRbMlyI5>

Speaking at the event, **Mrs Nita M. Ambani** said: *“This is truly historic. Over the last two months, our Olympians & Paralympians proudly took the tricolor to the world! Tonight, for the first time, they are all under one roof. Tonight, for the first time, there are over 140 Olympic and Paralympic athletes who have come together on the same platform. United in Triumph, United in Celebration and United in the inclusive spirit of sport.”*

**Mrs Ambani** also spoke about the ‘transformational power of sport’ and hailed the contribution of India’s female athletes to the country’s Olympic successes, saying, *“Their successes are even more special because of the difficulties women face in pursuing professional sport. Not just economic challenges, even getting permission from their families, or finding facilities to train, access to physios and rehab centres, or simply how far they have to travel from their villages to reach a coach. It’s a long and difficult journey for girls to get recognized in sports. And despite that, our female athletes have reached the pinnacle of success. They are sending out a strong message to the little girls who are watching – a message that they are unstoppable and that nothing is impossible for them!”*

**Mr Akash Ambani** thanked the athletes for their presence, saying, *“On behalf of the entire Reliance family, thank you for your inspiration. I would also like to thank my mother, Mrs Nita Ambani, for making this evening possible. Like everything else we do at Reliance Foundation, United in Triumph is her vision”*

Athletes across disciplines were honored for their hard work, passion, and the profound impact they've had in bringing India to the global forefront in both the Olympics and Paralympics. Among the attendees were Olympic and Paralympic medalists such as **Neeraj Chopra**, **Manu Bhaker**, and **Murlikant Petkar**, India's first-ever Paralympic gold medalist. Also present were **Devendra Jhajharia**, the first Indian to win two Paralympic gold medals and the President of the Paralympic Committee of India, alongside **Sumit Antil**, **Nitesh Kumar**, **Harvinder Singh**, **Dharambir Nain**, **Navdeep Singh**, and **Praveen Kumar**, who all secured gold at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. The event was graced by other notable athletes, including **Preethi Pal**, **Mona Agarwal**, **Simran Sharma**, **Deepthi Jeevanji**, and Olympians like **Sarabjot Singh**, **Swapnil Kusale**, and **Aman Sehrawat**. The Indian men's hockey team was represented by captain **Harmanpreet Singh** and **PR Sreejesh**, both members of the medal-winning squad in Paris. Olympic medalist **Lovlina Borgohain** and **Dhinidhi Desinghu**, the youngest member of India's contingent at just 14 years of age, were also in attendance. Their achievements have not only brought glory to the nation but have inspired future generations to strive for excellence in sports.

The ceremony was also attended by Indian sporting legends like **Deepa Malik**, **Sania Mirza**, **Karnam Malleswari** and **Pullela Gopichand** who have inspired countless younger athletes with their achievements and excellence.

Bollywood superstars **Ranveer Singh** and **Kartik Aaryan** who starred in sports-centric movies like *83* and *Chandu Champion* respectively, were also at the event to show their support for India's sporting heroes and cheer the athletes on as they were honoured.

In a heart-warming and moving gesture, Mrs Ambani was presented with the Paris 2024 Paralympic Torch, a symbol of equality and unity, by Devendra Jhajharia, Sumit Antil and Satyanarayana, chief coach of Paralympic Committee of India, as a token of appreciation for her efforts to make sports more inclusive in India.

*United in Triumph* not only celebrated athletic excellence but also highlighted the importance of equality in recognition, regardless of the arena. This event marked a new chapter in Indian sports, one where every athlete is celebrated for their dedication, resilience, and pursuit of excellence. The athletes reiterated their support for Mrs Ambani's vision of helping India become a sporting nation that has success in multiple sports and acknowledged the need to further bolster the Olympic movement in the country by showing their solidarity and committing to making a difference in their ways by inspiring the next-gen.

**About Reliance Foundation Youth Sports:** *Reliance Foundation's sports initiatives have touched the lives of over 22 million young people since 2013 across the country from over 13,000 schools and colleges, enabling an opportunity for talented children anywhere to be able to achieve their dream of a career in sport. It is especially committed to ensuring more presence and the success of girls and women athletes in India and designs its programmes in a manner that offers them maximum opportunities. Reliance Foundation's sports programme aims to develop the sporting ecosystem in India starting from the grassroots. Through its scholarship and athletics programmes, the foundation currently supports over 200 athletes in more than 10 Olympic sports. It also operates three world-class athletics training facilities in India and has partnerships with the IOC, IOA, AFI, and Odisha government. Reliance Foundation runs the Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) football academy, which is India's highest-rated football academy, with many graduates going on to represent various ISL clubs. The Foundation's approach to developing the football ecosystem includes organising three grassroots initiatives: Reliance Foundation Youth Sports, RFYC Naupang League, and Reliance Foundation Development League.*

#UnitedInTriumph #RFSports #RelianceFoundation #Paris2024 #Paralympics2024

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