

## Norman Pritchard: India's First Olympic Medalist

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October 30 marks the death anniversary of Norman Peterson Pritchard, India's first Olympic medalist.



[Ref: Hindustan Times]

## **About Norman Peterson Pritchard:**

### **Early Life and Background**

- Norman Pritchard was born on **January 23, 1875**, in **Calcutta** (now Kolkata) during **British India**.
- He was actively involved in **athletics, football, and acting**.

### **Olympic Journey:**

- Norman Pritchard participated in the **1900 Paris Olympics**.
- He won two silver medals in the 200-metre sprint and 200-metre hurdles.
- He was the **First Asian-born athlete** to win an **Olympic medal**.
- He only represented **India** in the Olympics after participating with an **Indian passport** and **birth certificate**.

### **Achievements and Records:**

- Norman Pritchard was the **First Olympian** to act in **Hollywood**, under the screen name **Norman Trevor**.
- He scored a **hat-trick** in an official football match on **Indian soil** in **1897**.
- He won Bengal province's **100-yard sprint title** for **seven consecutive years** (1894-1900).

### **Identity and National Representation:**

- He was officially listed as an **Indian athlete** by the **International Olympic Committee**.
  - However, British historians suggest his medals should be credited to **Great Britain**.
- India's **first official Olympic team** was named after becoming a member of the **International Olympic Committee** in February **1920**.