Anirban Lahiri sot: (01:58:39) “For me, this is home, this will always be home. My folks are here, my wife's folks are here, all our friends that we grew up with are here. So yeah, I miss home, I miss the people, the culture.”

Anirban Lahri: (d2a 01:13:07) “It can be a bit hectic. But, you know, I enjoy it, I love being back.”

Anirban Lahiri: (01:59:28) “it's funny how things that annoy you can also be endearing at times.”

*PGA TOUR ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS…*

**ANIRBAN LAHIRI IS A STAR OF INDIA, AND NOT UNLIKE THE *FAMOUS* “STAR OF INDIA”, A 563 CARAT GOLF BALL-SIZED SAPHIRE, HE TOO, IS A RARE GEM.**

**WITH MORE THAN 1.3 BILLION PEOPLE, THERE ARE ONLY 196 REGESTERED GOLF COURSES IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY OF INDIA, 50 PERCENT OF WHICH ARE LOCATED ON MILITARY BASES AND NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**FORTUNATELY, ANIRBAN IS THE SON OF A DOCTOR; MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE SON OF AN ARMY DOCTOR.**

Dr. Tushar Lahiri:: (02:22:02) “being in the army, most places you have a golf course very close to where you are assigned. / (02:22:48) he used to come along with me. And while I used to get the lessons, he used to putt around the greens and stuff like that.”

Anirban sot: (01:06:36) “That's how I had access to it. So if I wasn't born into an Army family, into a defense family, I would never have played the sport”

Dr. Tushar Lahiri: (02:22:57) “this coach guy told me that, look I see a spark in this guy, too. While you learn, you must ensure that this guy starts learning too.”

**THAT COACH WASN’T THE ONLY PERSON TO SEE A SPARK IN THE YOUNG ANIRBAN.**

GS Ravi sot: (02:39:27) “I found him to be a very amicable young man. When he started off and I saw a lot of potential”

Vijay Divecha sot: (02:49:24) “what I really saw was the determination to get where he wanted to go.”

GS Ravi sot: (02:40:12) “I was very impressed by the young man of his age. And I'm talking to 15 to maybe 17, 18 years ago.”

**18 YEARS AGO, ANIRBAN WAS A 13-YEAR OLD STUDENT ADMIRING THE PRECIOUS FEW INDIAN PROFESSIONAL GOLFERS IN EXISTANCE.**

Joy Chakravarty sot: (03:37:36) “The opportunities were so limited for Indian golfers that they were really nowhere in the world golfing map.”

**THE FIRST INDIAN GOLFER TO ACHIEVE ANY GLOBAL SUCCESS WAS JEEV MILKA SINGH WHO CAPTURED 18 WORLDWIDE TITLES BETWEEN 1996 AND 2012.**

**DANIEL CHOPRA BORN IN SWEEDEN TO A SWEEDISH MOTHER AND AN INDIAN FATHER, MOVED TO INDIA AS A 7-YEAR OLD TO LIVE WITH HIS GRANPARENTS. AFTER WINNING TWO TIMES IN ASIA, HE VENTURED TO THE UNITED STATES AND CAPTURED TWO PGA TOUR TITLES.**

*Nats: Mercedes (17:53:03) “Daniel Chopra is the champion.”*

**ARJUN ATWAL WAS THE FIRST PLAYER BORN IN INDIA TO BECOME A PGA TOUR MEMBER AND WIN A PGA TOUR EVENT WHEN HE DID SO IN 2010.**

*Annc: (16:54:51) “The Wyndham Championship belongs to Arjun Atwal.”*

**THESE PIONEERS OF INDIAN GOLF PAVED THE WAY FOR A YOUNG ANIRBAN LAHIRI. BUT DESPITE THE SPARK IN HIS EYES, CHOOSING GOLF AS A CAREER IS EVEN MORE THAN RARE IN INDIA. IT’S THE EXCEPTION**.

Joy Chakravarty sot: (02:43:10) When I was growing up in say the 1980's, sport was the last thing that any parent would advise their kids to. I mean, you are free to play with your friends. But as a career, no. I mean that was completely no, no.”

Anirban sot: (01:15:36) “to say ‘dad, or mom, I wanna play golf or I wanna pursue it seriously, it comes at the cost of pursuing mainstream education. And that was a very difficult decision, not for me but for my parents.”

Dr. Tushar Lahiri: (02:25:21) “So, we just let it evolve on its own. The plot with him was go ahead, give it a bash.

Anirban sot: (01:18:02) “it was tough. I think the first two, two and a half years I really struggled. I came close a few times but I never closed the deal. // (01:18:35) as soon as I got that first win, it kind of opened up a few blocks for me.”

**BETWEEN 2001 AN 2014, ANIRBAN WON FIVE ASIAN TOUR EVENTS…**

**AND HE BROKE LOOSE THE FOLLOWING SEASON.**

Anirban Lahiri sot: (01:22:18) ”I went back out early 2015, and I won the Malaysian Open on the European Tour. And I came and won the Indian Open.”

*Annc: (01:07:40) “He’s done it. Anirban Lahiri wins his national open championship.”*

Anirban Lahiri sot: (01:23:20) “that really was a turning point for me. Cuz winning twice on the European Tour in the space of three weeks, I found myself in the top 35 in the world. “

*Annc: “Would you believe it?”*

**HIS SUCCESS IN 2015 EARNED THE RISING STAR A SPOT ON THE PRESIDENTS CUP INTERNATIONAL TEAM, THE FIRST PLAYER FROM INDIA TO ACHIEVE SUCH A GOAL.**

*Annc: 16reg12 (01:22:40) “Here’s Anirban Lahiri now…another win at the 14th for the internationals.”*

**AND, OF ALL THINGS, IT WAS A 3-FOOT PUTT ON THE FINAL HOLE OF HIS SUNDAY SINGLES MATCH THAT TRULY DEFINED ANIRBAN LAHIRI AS, NOT SO MUCH A GOLFER, BUT A HUMAN BEING.**

*Annc: (01:22:52) “Oh!!! Classic miss. He didn’t waste any time did he?”*

Anirban Lahiri sot: (01:32:26) “it wasn't like I hit a bad putt or whatever, it just didn't go in. And I had to deal with those consequences, I had to live with that. And thanks to Captain Price, I got the opportunity to redeem myself at Liberty. I managed to fight those very experiences and kind of come through them and kind of redeem myself in my own eyes.”

*Annc (17pcup 17:55:43) “It’s in. Oh Man! How about that! That was impressive.”*

Dr. Tushar Lahiri: (02:26:40) “the best thing about him is he never gets dejected. He didn't take it as a personal setback.“

GS Ravi sot: (02:42:02) “He's able to take failures as well as his success. And he has not let success go to his head. He has always been humble, and every failure he has, he's able to learn something from it, and go to his next level.”

**THE NEXT LEVEL FOR ANIRBAN IS, OBVIOUSLY, THAT FIRST PGA TOUR VICTORY; NOT FOR WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO HIM PERSONALLY, BUT RATHER, TO HIS COUNTRY AND THE GROWTH OF THE GAME WITHIN.**

Anirban Lahiri sot: (01:45:55) “to win on the PGA TOUR, or to win a major, that would be a big shift. You'd see more kids play the sport. You'd see more kids play the sport, cuz for any sport to become really popular, you have to create heroes. And you've gotta have people do things on a global stage”

Neeraj Sareen sot: (01:22:23) “he has big fan following. If he won on the PGA tour// it'll be a huge impact, //It'll only popularize the sport. It'll give hope to all the children in school that look, it's a good career option.“

Anirban Lahiri sot: (01:46:50) “it's weird, because I feel like it wasn't very long ago that I was on the other side of the ropes looking in. // I feel very honored, very privileged, but I also feel the responsibility to do it not just for myself.”

*Nats: (1B 03:08:49) “Longer and smoother…There you go.”*

GS Ravi sot: (02:45:31) “I feel that a number of youngsters will start following in his footsteps. There are already you can see a lot, Shubhankar Sharma is one example.”

**SHUBHANKAR SHARMA IS ALREADY MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF, HAVING CAPTURED 8 PROFESSIONAL TITLES WORLDWIDE.**

*Annc: 18mexico (17:50:29) “And Sharma has it! Clutch four! That was huge for Sharma!*

Anirban Lahiri sot: (01:52:39) “he is just solid all around. I've known Shubhankar for a while, I've played some golf with him, and there's no weak link, // (01:53:25) I see big things for him in the future and I've been in his ear a lot. I'm like, hurry up and get on out there so I have some company on tour.”

**AND HE’S NOT THE ONLY GOLFER IN SHARMA’S EAR. 2019 PRESIDENTS CUP INTERNATIONAL TEAM CAPTAIN ERNIE ELS SEES THE POTENTIAL AS WELL.**

(*Els/Sharma walk & Talk) Els: (01:20:44)“To have young guys like you flying the flag for India is so important.*

*Sharma: Yep, absolutely.”*

*Els: And it’s great to see how hard you work and to compete at this highest level at your age is Incredible. I mean the one in Mexico….*

*Feherty annc: (15:59:06) “He has been impressive these last three days. He really has.”*

*Els: (01:21:16) “and that’s at the highest level. It’s incredible what you’ve done..*

*Sharma: “Thank you, yep, I feel like we have really good chance now in the Presidents Cup.”*

Sharma sot: “if I could make the team, it would mean a great deal to me. And I think it would just put more eyeballs on to golf back home in India, and more people would be interested.”

**AND THAT, AFTER ALL, IS INDEED THE MISSION. WITH THE ONGOING EFFORTS OF ANIRBAN, SHARMA IS JUST ONE OF AN INCREASING NUMBER OF FUTURE INDIAN STARS.**

Pawan Munjal sot: (01:38:39) “I feel really, really, very excited and happy when I go to golf clubs, // I see boys and girls. These are the kids who will become champions globally in two decades or less. // It definitely is going to happen for India.”

Anirban Lahiri sot: (01:17:58) “it's just something that's come naturally to me, I think. I have been a benefactor of it in the past. And I'm still a benefactor of it, but in a different way. Now I'm on the other side, but I'm still receiving a lot of energy from it.”

**AT 31-YEARS YOUNG, ANIRBAN LAHIRI CONTINUES HIS QUEST TO THE NEXT LEVEL. AND REGARDLESS OF WHAT LEVEL HE DOES ACHIEVE, HE IS ALREADY A TRUE GEM...A STAR OF INDIA”.**

Anirban Lahiri sot: (01:54:07) “Honestly, I'm just trying to be the best golfer I can be. // The fact that I was the flag-bearer for a number of years and now Shubhankar has joined me was something that happened along the way. // and it's a matter of great pride and joy and honor to be able to do that. // Not a lot of people have that priviliege. So for me, I'm still on a personal quest, I'm on my own journey. And along the way a lot of things have happened that have made it even more special. So I cherish that and I try and stay true to what I'm trying to achieve.”