CHAPTER V

PERFORMANCE OF INDIA’S PLAYERS IN ASIAN GAMES (1974-2002)

This chapter deals with the analysis of Asian Games, from Seventh Asian Games held in 1974 to Fourteenth Asian Games held in 2002, with particular reference to the performance of Indian players in these games. While making a small beginning in New Delhi in March 1951, when 11 countries had taken part in the first Asian Games, the Asiad had grown in spirit and magnitude with the passage of time. Teheran, the capital of Iran, served as the venue for the Seventh Asian Games in which 3110 players from 25 countries took part. The holding of the Asian Games held at Teheran was historic in many respects. In the first instance, it was for the first time that Asian Games were being held in the Middle Eastern part of Asia. Secondly, as many as 25 countries took part in as many as 16 sports events, which was the largest since the inception of the Asian Games.

Another interesting aspect of the Seventh Asian games was the participation of People’s Republic of China which was taking part in an international sports meet of this kind for the first time. Opening up of China to the world by joining the United Nations and other international forums had paved way for Beijing to interact as well as participate in global as well as regional events. Prior to that, Taiwan, which had joined the Asian Games Federation before the Manila Games in 1954, and had been participating in the Asian Games since then, except in the fourth Asian Games held at Jakarta, was expelled from its membership by the Asian Games Federation (AGF), with People’s Republic of China joining the Asian Games. Along with China, Mongolia
and North Korea were also admitted to the AGF as members and these countries were also taking part in the Teheran Asian Games for the first time.

With the inclusion of Israel as a participant in the Teheran Asian Games, despite protests from many Arab countries, the question of providing security to the members of Israeli contingent in view of the reported threats from Palestinian militants and a Japanese militant sect, particularly in the aftermath of gruesome assassination of Israeli players at the Munich Olympics in 1972, was accorded priority. Undoubtedly, the facilities at Jakarta and Bangkok were excellent, especially the Asian Games Village constructed for the games.

**Seventh Asian Games (Teheran, 1974)**

The facilities available at Teheran during the Seventh Asian Games surpassed the previous arrangements made in that regard. The focal point of attraction was Aryamehr Sports Centre, with facilities for holding 13 of the 16 events of the Games. The Centre had been transformed into a place of scenic beauty. The main stadium could accommodate about 1,00,000 spectators. The 16 sports events designated for the Seventh Asian Games being held at Teheran, *inter alia*, included Athletics, Swimming, Shooting, Cycling, Weightlifting, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Boxing, Table Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Tennis, Badminton, Fencing and Hockey. Fencing and gymnastics were new events added to the Seventh Asian Games. It is interesting to note that at Asian Games, instead of the conventional cinder track, it had synthetic plastic surfaced tracks. Besides, no stop-watch was used. Instead both timings and placings were recorded by photo-finish cameras placed at level with the finishing tape, which were triggered off as soon as the starter fired from his gun. This helped in eliminating delays of up to a one-tenth of a second.
A notable feature of the Seventh Asian Games was that Japan, China and Iran made huge haul of total medals at the Teheran meet. Japan bagged 175 medals in total, of which 75 were gold medals, 49 silver medals and 51 bronze medals. The Japanese had started off with a deluge of swimming medals by bagging 22 gold medals in 25 races. The performance of Japan at the Seventh Teheran Asian Games was almost a repeat of 1970 Bangkok Asian Games where it had won 74 gold medals. Iran, the host of the Seventh Asian Games, had won 81 medals, of which 36 were gold medals, 28 silver medals and 17 bronze medals. Iran scored heavily in wrestling and weightlifting. People's Republic of China, though taking part in the Asian Games for the first time, had won a total of 106 medals in all, of which 33 were gold medals, 45 silver medals and 28 bronze medals. China displayed strong showings in gymnastics, diving, badminton, and table tennis. The spectacular performance of the Chinese players at the Seventh Asian games, their maiden participation, had given strong message to participating players from other Asian countries for a tough competition in the future.

Performance of both Koreas was also praiseworthy. The South Koreans picked up 16 gold medals in the aftermath of an unpleasant day when they were the losing finalists in the men's basketball, men's volleyball and three table tennis events. North Korea was close behind South Korea by having won 15 gold medals. India's four gold medals win was less than its previous performance in the past Asian Games. Setting up of new records at the Seventh Asian Games called for rewriting of the Asian Games record book. In track and field, 24 records fell in 35 events, and in the 25 swimming events eleven records were broken.
The Seventh Asian Games was ceremonially declared open by the then Shah of Iran on 1 September 1974 amidst thunderous applause in a colourful show, release of hundreds of white pigeons and numberless coloured balloons. The security arrangements inside and around the Aryamehr Stadium were strict. Hundreds of troops deployed there were taking rounds with helicopters hovering overhead. Because of security reasons, the Israel contingent of players was kept separate from the rest teams, flanked by security guards. The opening ceremony ended with the Asian Games anthem, lighting of the Games torch by a veteran Iranian athlete and an impressive display of ancient Iranian sports and folk dances.

An analysis of main sports events which took place at the 1974 Teheran Asian Games is provided below under various subheads.

**Athletics**

It was on 9 September 1974, almost a week after the opening of the Seventh Asian Games, that track and field events commenced and lasted for a week. The marathon race did not constitute the part of athletics at the 1974 Teheran Asian Games. In the 100m sprint for men, Thailand bagged the top position whereas the second place fell jointly to Indonesia and the Philippines. In the 200m sprint for men, Thailand was on the top. Sri Lanka won their first gold medal by winning the 400m race. India's Sucha Singh finished fifth and it was for the first time that India failed to get a medal in the 400m at the Asian Games.

In the 800m, India's middle distance runner, Sri Ram Singh won the gold medal with a record shattering time of 1 minute and 47.57 seconds. Iran bagged the silver medal and Pakistan was awarded the bronze medal in the 800m race. In the 1500m event, Pakistan won the gold when its player outlasted Japan's defending champion.
In the men's 5000m, India's Shiv Nath Singh led the race throughout to win in 14 minutes 20.50 seconds, thereby breaking the previous record of 14 minutes 22.0 seconds. In the 10,000 meters category, Japan won the gold medal, and India's Shiv Nath Singh claimed the silver medal, whereas the bronze medal went to Japan.

In the 110m hurdles, China's player bagged the gold medal by clocking in 14.26 seconds and breaking the previous record of 14.30 seconds set by Indonesia and Pakistan. In the 400 metre hurdles, Iraq won gold medal, while Kuwait was awarded silver medal, and India's Lehmber Singh was content with the bronze medal.

Japan's Takaharu Koyama was awarded the gold medal for the gruelling 3000 metre steeplechase, setting the pace all the way to clock 8 minutes 57.95 seconds. Gurmej Singh of India bagged silver medal, and China's Li Wen-liang won the bronze medal. In the 4 x 100 m relay, Thailand's Anan Ratanapol won the gold medal for the second successive time with a new record to boot. China bagged the silver medal, and bronze medal went to Singapore. In the 4 x 400 m relay, Sri Lanka bagged gold medal, India was awarded silver medal, and bronze was secured by Iran.

The Indian athletes showed somewhat better performance in the field events. In the long jump event, India's T. C. Yohannan was awarded gold medal. Yohannan proved to be the first Asian athlete to cross the 8 metre barrier in the event. Japan took the silver medal, and bronze medal was awarded to Satish Pillai of India. In the triple jump event, Japan bagged the gold medal. India's Mohinder Singh Gill, the gold medal winner at the 1970 Asian Games, was placed second and awarded silver medal. Iran got the bronze medal. The high jump gold medal went to Iran, China bagged the silver medal, and bronze medal went to Japan. In the pole vault event, Japan won the gold medal while China bagged both silver and bronze medals.
In the throwing events India won three silver and one bronze medals. Iran bagged gold medals for both he discuss throw and shot put events. In the hammer throw, Japan won the gold medal and India’s Nirmal Singh was awarded silver medal. In the javelin throw, Japan won both gold and silver medals while bronze medal went to China. India’s Vijay Singh Chauhan won the gold medal in grueling 10-event decathlon with a new Asian Games record of 7,375 points, thereby proving that he was Asia’s best all-round athlete. The decathlon event proved to be a cause of celebration for India because India’s Suresh Babu bagged he bronze medal in the same event with a total of 6,836 points. The silver medal in the event went to Japan.

Competition in athletic events had become keen, particularly in view of the large number of events and more women competitors taking part in it. The outstanding performance of Israeli woman athlete Esther Rot in winning three gold medals for the 100 m and 200 m sprint and 100 m hurdles made her Asia’s new sprint queen. Women athletes from Japan and China also gave excellent performance. The Japanese women athletes bagged five gold medals and women athletes from China claimed four gold medals.

**Basketball**

In the Basketball event, eleven countries – Israel, Philippines, China, South Korea, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, Kuwait and Bahrain – took part in this competition for men. It is noteworthy that China, North Korea, Kuwait, Pakistan and Bahrain were participating in the event for the first time. It is equally worth mentioning here that India, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Hong Kong, which had taken part in the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games’ basketball events, did not take part at the Teheran Asian Games’ basketball events.
The first round of the game was played under four groups. All countries except Kuwait, Bahrain, and Iraq qualified for the second round which was played under two groups. In the finals, Israel defeated the defending champions South Korea, 92-85, to win the gold medal, with an unbeatable record. China defeated Philippines, 102-89, to grab the bronze medal, in a slow-paced match that was marred by Chinese protests.

In the five-nation women’s basketball, Japan beat China, 84-80, to wrest the gold medal. South Korea won the bronze medal. The walk-out staged by the North Koreans out of their match against South Korea against a foul call by the referee created a dramatic scene.

Boxing

The boxing events entailed 11 divisions in which these events were conducted at the Seventh Asian Games. In the overall performance, South Koreans dominated the events, bagging five gold medals in the 48 kg, 57 kg, 60 kg, 67 kg, and 75 kg classes. Boxing team from Iran, on account of controversial decisions, was awarded gold in three classes, the 71 kg, 81 kg, and the overall 81 kg. India’s six-member team had to be content with three silver and two bronze medals. The heavyweight contest between Indian boxer, Ll Bahadur Bura, and Iranian boxer, Abdul Reza Audaveh, was a brawling affair with he rugged. The Indian boxer Bura, taking heavy punishment in the first round, started to land some heavy blows in the second round and his Iranian opponent Audaveh, was dazed and staggering around when in the last bout, Bura swung a powerful right across that knocked his rival unconscious. The Malaysian referee, who counted out the Iranian, changed his mind and disqualified Bura for hitting he had called for a break. While this deprived the Indian
boxer of the gold medal, the Iranian boxer had to be revived with oxygen, before being helped on to the rostrum to receive the gold medal.

Broadly speaking, the boxing events turned out to be the most unsatisfactory and controversial in the history of the Asian Games. On one hand, the events were dominated by the skill of the South Koreans, and on the other hand, these were devalued by the rank impotency of the judges and referees. On two occasions, near rioting had broken out in the stadium, one on the fifth day of the event and the other on the last day. The first incident triggered off when Iranian flyweight Abdul Reza Ansari was given a controversial point decision over Olympic silver medalist Kim Won-gil of North Korea. North Korean athletes rushed to the ring and attacked the officials. The rioting continued for over an hour.

Prior to that, a similar incident where Iranian boxer Ahmed-pourfetekhali was awarded a point decision over Chindrassi-Sathit of Thailand in the welterweight quarterfinals, had brought only silenced astonishment. On the last day of events, India heavyweight Til Bahadur Bura was disqualified after knocking out his Iranian rival Abdul Reza Audaveh. This culminated in a scuffle between Iranian athletes and Indian officials.

**Shooting**

The shooting competitions entailed 11 team events and 11 individual events. The shooting team from North Korea had a field day and was on the top by having blasted eight Asian Games records out of the books and equaled one. They also produced the only individual double gold medal winner in Han Dong Kyu. North Koreans won 10 gold medals and four silver medals. China finished second with four
gold, six silver and three bronze medals. Japanese shooters were placed third with three gold, four silver and four bronze medals.

Indian shooting team was dominated by Karni Singh who earned the first silver medal for India when he finished runner-up in the individual trap event. Karni Singh's total of 189 points out of the maximum 200 points, was three points less than Japan's Hiroyi Matusuko. George Earnshaw of the Philippines won the bronze medal with 182 points. The Indian shooter, Karni Singh, won his second medal, the bronze, in the individual skeet with a score of 184 points out of a maximum 200 points. Japan and South Korea shared the gold medal and silver medal respectively.

Swimming

High drama was visible at the pool during the Seventh Asian Games, with Japan completely dominating the events and maintaining their supremacy in swimming and diving. The swimmers from Japan won 22 gold, 13 silver and 10 bronze medals. Japanese women swimmers' events were the first to begin. Yoshimi Nishigawa, who had snatched not less than five gold medals at the 1970 Sixth Asian Games, failed to equal her feat at the Seventh Asian Games. However, her performance was creditable as she won three gold medals in the 100 m freestyle, 200 m freestyle, 200 m individual medley, and helped her teammates to win the 4 x 100 m freestyles. In the women's 400 m freestyle, Fusae Nakamura shattered the Asian Games mark. She returned a time of 4 minutes 48.73 seconds thus breaking the record of 4 minutes 51.8 seconds earlier held by T. Iguchi of Japan. Nakamura won by a hair's breadth from Singapore's surprise packet Elaine Eng.

A 15-year-old Japanese school girl from Osaka, Toshiko Haruoka, won the 100 m breast-stroke with a record timing of 1 minute 19.16 seconds. The 200 m breast-
stroke gold medal was also bagged by T. Haruoko, clocking 2 minutes 51.16 seconds. Japan also wrested gold in the 100 m butterfly, 100 m backstroke, and the 4 x 100 m medley relay. In the spring-board and high-board diving for women, the Chinese made a clean sweep of gold medals and both were won by S. Chung.

In the swimming events for men, the 200 m freestyle was perhaps the most exciting event in which Yukio Honiuchi of Japan claimed the gold medal. Yuen Cho, who had won gold medal for 400 m at the 1970 Asian Games, finished a very close second to Honiuchi, pipping in 0.03 seconds behind. In the 400 m freestyle, South Korea’s Cho O-Yuen, broke Japan’s unbeaten run in the swimming events with his record-smashing win. Cho, defending champion, led throughout clocking 4 minutes 17.93 seconds, a 2.2 seconds improvement over his 1970 Bangkok Asian Games record. Cho O-Yuen also won the grueling 1500 m freestyle gold medal. The 100 m and 200 m breast-stroke were both won by Japan’s Nobutaka Taguchi. Japan again bagged a double in the 100 m and 200 m breast-stroke events. The Chinese divers won the diving gold medals for men.

**Waterpolo**

During the six-day round-robin competitions, Iran having scored 79 points, was declared winners, defeating Singapore 9-1, in the finals. China with 67 points, bagged the silver medal while Japan secured the bronze with a total of 63 points. India, which had won silver medal at the 1970 Bangkok Asian games, was placed sixth with a poor points tally of 29. India’s performance was miserable against Iran and China on the first day, losing 18-6, and 17-2, respectively. In their third round, India lost to Singapore, 12-7. In other matches as well, India’s performance was poor, having beaten Kuwait, 12-4, lost to Japan, 14-2, and to North Korea 7-0.
**Badminton**

In the badminton events, the Chinese players, who were competing for the first time, grabbed most of the gold medals, thereby proving their skills and superiority. Huo Chia-Chiang, China’s badminton champion, proved that he was still the master of the game when he tamed his own country’s second ranking player, Fang Kai-Hsiang, 15-12, 15-11, to win the men’s singles gold medal. However, Huo was robbed of an opportunity to prove himself as the world champion, because the person who held the distinction, Rudy Hartono of Indonesia, had not participated in the competition. In the women’s singles finals, Chen Yu-niang of China secured the gold medal when she overpowered her teammate by 11-8 and 11-7, in the final.

In the men’s doubles, the Indonesian players proved their superiority over the Chinese, winning the gold and silver medals in the event. In the women’s doubles, Chinese players got the gold and silver medals. The mixed doubles were won by Indonesia.

In the team events for men, India won the bronze medal with a 3-0 victory over Pakistan. The gold medal was claimed by China by defeating Indonesia 3-2, in the finals. In the women’s team events, China repeated its victory over Indonesia to grab the gold medal.

**Table Tennis**

In the table tennis events, predominance of the Chinese players was discernible all the way at the Seventh Asian Games. China’s Liang Ke-Liang bagged the men’s singles gold medal by trouncing Mitasuru Kono of Japan who got the silver medal. North Korea’s Yoon Chol won the bronze medal. China’s Chiang Li bagged the gold medal in women’s singles by defeating South Korea’s Jung Hyun Soon, 21-10, 21-13,
19-21, 21-15. The mixed doubles was won by Linag Ke-Liang and Cheng Huai-Yung, both from China. Silver medal was bagged by South Korea while Japan secured the bronze medal.

Asian doubles champions N. Hasegawa and Mitsuru Kono defeated China’s Li Chen-Shih and Liang Ke-Liang, 3-1 in the men’s doubles to win the first gold medal for Japan in the competitions. The women’s doubles were won by China’s Chang Li and Cheng Huai-Ying. The Chinese also registered victory in the men’s and women’s team championships. Liang Ke-Liang, a 24-year-old youth from China was the star player who registered victory in all his three singles matches.

**Tennis**

The tennis events were dominated by players from Japan who won gold medal in the men’s team events, the men’s singles and doubles and women’s doubles. The Indian players displayed poor performance and failed to win even a single medal. In the men’s team events, Japan beat China by 3-0 to win the gold medal. In the final, T. Sakai trounced China’s Hsu Mei Lin, 6-2, 6-1, while K. Hirai beat China’s Lu Chang Yi, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, and Sakai-Hirai defeated Ku-Luo, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 to wrap up the match. Korea bagged the gold medal for women’s team, while China got the silver and bronze medal was awarded to Japan.

In the men’s singles match, T. Sakai beat Iran’s T. Akbari, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0, 7-5. While gold medal was awarded to Japan, Iran got the silver medal and Israel’s Y. Shalem won the bronze. The talented Japanese duo Sakai and Hirai won the men’s doubles, defeating Iran’s Fouzoundell and Derafeshidjavan, 6-0, 6-0, 6-4. In the mixed doubles Israel bagged the gold medal thereby staging a walk-over against China. The women’s singles witnessed a spirited contest between L. Sugiarto of
Indonesia and P. Pesahor of Israel which the Indonesian won, 7-6, 6-4. In the women’s finals, Sade and Fakuda beat Korea’s S. Lee and D. Lee to grab the gold medal.

**Volleyball**

Volleyball events witnessed intense competitions in the men’s as well as women’s teams. The men’s events were divided into two groups — A & B. In Group A’s first match, China defeated India, 15-3, 15-6, 15-5. The defending champion Japan trounced the Philippines, 15-0, 15-6, 15-5. In Group A’s other matches, China beat the Philippines, Japan defeated India, India beat the Philippines and Japan defeated China. Japan emerged as the winner in Group A, while China was placed second and India got third. In Group B, South Koreans were the winners, Iran coming second and Pakistan was placed third.

In the second round knockout series, South Korea defeated China, Japan trounced Iran, India defeated Kuwait and the Philippines routed Pakistan. Japan clashed with South Korea in the finals in an exciting match. The Japanese retained the gold medal, defeating South Korea, 15-12, 16-14, 15-12. The women’s events also witnessed the finals between Japan and South Korea in which Japan was the winner, 9-15, 15-2, 15-8, 15-6, to retain the gold medal.

**Weightlifting**

The competitors from the participant countries taking part in the weightlifting events were divided into nine divisions – flyweight, bantamweight, featherweight, lightweight, middleweight, light heavyweight, middle heavyweight, heavyweight and super heavyweight. In all, fourteen countries had sent their weightlifters. Iran’s Mohammad Nassiri bagged two gold medals in the heavyweight division, in the jerk
(132.5 kg) and total lifts (232.5 kg). The gold medal for snatch went to Gui Aung Gyi from Burma, now known as Myanmar (102 kg). In the bantamweight division, Japan’s Kenkichi Audo had a hat trick when he won the gold in all three: jerk (140 kg), snatch (110 kg), and total lifts (250 kg). K. Hirari of Japan also repeated a hat trick by winning three gold medals in the featherweight division.

South Korea’s Shin-Hee won all three gold medals in the lightweight division. On the other hand, North Korea and Japan shared the gold medal in the middle weight division. North Korea’s An Won Guen won the jerk (167.5 kg) and the total lifts (300 kg) while Japan’s E. Mitsuishi claimed the gold medal in the snatch (132.5 kg). Japan’s supremacy was again evident when in the light heavyweight division Sueo Fujishiro bagged all three gold medals, jerk (175 kg), snatch (140 kg), and total lifts (315 kg). China got its first and only gold medal when its weightlifter Tsien Yu-Kai won the middle heavyweight snatch (130 kg). The jerk and total lifts gold medals in the event went to A. Valli of Iran. His figures were jerk (185 kg) and total lifts (312.5 kg).

Another hat trick became evident when Kaengarnezhad was awarded all the three gold medals in the heavyweight division. However, the occurrence of doping controversy spoiled the show. First, Masashi Ohuchi of Japan, who had two gold medals in the middle heavyweight events, was stripped of his medals when a urine test revealed the presence of prohibited drug ephedrine. Embarrassed Japanese officials agreed to return the medals. On the other hand, North Korea made a big show of refusal to accept the disqualification for dope-taking by Kim Joong-il who had earlier won three gold medals in the heavyweight division. Kim’s disqualification gave the three gold medals to H. Karengarnezhad of Iran.
The super heavyweight division which was included for the first time saw Iran winning all three gold medals. The snatch (140 kg) and total lifts (317.5 kg) were won by Akbar Shokromlahi of Iran while his compatriot Hafez-Hassani won the jerk (177.5 kg). India’s only weightlifter, Dalbir Singh, was placed sixth in the snatch (122.5 kg), fifth in the jerk (150 kg), and fifth again in the total lift (272.5 kg).

It is worth mentioning here that an ugly incident marred the opening day of the weightlifting events when the Iraqi weightlifter, Al Ka-Bi refused to leave the stage after being disqualified from the featherweight division. The contest was held up for more than an hour when Ka-Bi, under strict orders from his coach, remained firmly seated on a chair on the stage. The chief referee had ruled that the weightlifter had appeared for his first attempt at the bar with grease on his thighs. Later, Ka-Ba was allowed to take his lift.

**Wrestling**

The participants for the wrestling events were divided into two sections – Greco-Roman style and freestyle. Most of the wrestling events witnessed fierce competitions between favourites Japan and Iran. Iran’s haul of 13 gold medals in the Greco-roman and freestyle was its best performance thus far. However, Japan’s winning of five gold medals in wrestling was its thus far the lowest performance. Indian wrestlers displayed dismal performance in the Greco-Roman style. India’s Sukhchain Singh was the lone medal winner, striking a bronze in the 100 kg heavyweight class. Besides, Sukhchain, India had nine other competitors in the field. All fell by the wayside. India’s performance in the freestyle wrestling was still slightly better when its wrestlers won three bronze medals. The three winners were – Satbir
(flyweight- 52 kg), Satpal (middleweight – 82 kg) and Sukhchain Singh (heavyweight- 100 kg).

**Hockey**

The hockey matches had drawn curious crowds of spectators. Once again the finals were between India and Pakistan. The Indian team seemed sadly out of character throughout the first half. There was no design in their game. They also seemed to be lacking in basic skills. The faster, fitter and more adroit Pakistani attack scintillated with electrifying speed, ball control, dribbling and, above all, flawless understanding. The Pakistanis played to a well-contrived plan and when they beat India 2-1, it was definitely the better side that had won. Pakistan was awarded the gold medal and India got the silver medal, the bronze medal was given to Malaysia.

**Cycling**

At the seventh Asian games, Japan emerged again Asia’s track champion when they won all four velodrome gold medals. The 1000 m sprint – the premier cycling event – was won by Shimpei-Okajima of Japan. The 4000 m team pursuit and the individual pursuit were won by Japanese cyclists, fending off a stiff challenge from the Iranian and Korean cyclists. The 1000 m individual time trial was again won by S. Okajima who thus got a ‘double’. Iranian cyclists claimed the 100 km team trial event. In the 180 km individual road race, Iranians bagged all three medals. The Iranians also took fourth place.

**Fencing**

Fencing competition, introduced at the Seventh Asian games for the first time, was held in three contests, foil, Epee, and Sabre. Women fencers participated in the
foil individual and team, and Epee team events. An event that spoiled the event was the disqualification of North Korea from the women’s team foil events for refusing to meet the Israeli fencers. Iranians were declared the winners in the event and bagged the gold medal, Japan got the silver medal and Israel was awarded the bronze medal. In the foil individual events for women, Japan’s Kamada, with four wins, was declared winner, while Iran’s Shafaie and Mohieban with three wins each, got the silver and bronze medals respectively. The final placings of the Epee women’s team events were Iran, Japan and China.

In the men’s events, Japan’s Ishikawa with four wins, claimed the gold medal in the Epee individual events. Thailand sprang a surprise by winning the men’s team Epee events. The Thais defeated the Iranians, 8-7. Japan won the men’s foil individual and the team events. The rough-playing Iranian team took the men’s sabre team gold medal by defeating Japan. The sabre individual event was won by Japan’s Akiho.

**Gymnastics**

Gymnastics was another addition to the Seventh Asian Games held in Teheran. Gymnasts from China were on the top with six gold medals, Japan with four gold medals and Korea with two was placed second and third respectively. The men’s events comprised the floor exercise, side horse, rings, horse vault, parallel, horse bar and the all-round. China won the gold medal in the side horse and the horse bar, while Japan got the gold medal in the floor exercise, horse vault, and the individual all-round. Korean gymnasts got the gold medal in the rings and the parallel events.

In the women’s events, China got the gold medal, and the silver medal in the beam and floor exercise events while in the individual all-round, China made a clean
sweep of all the three gold medals. Japanese women won the horse vault and the North Koreans claimed the uneven bars gold medal. The women’s team events were won by China.

**Football**

At the Seventh Asian Games held at Teheran, Iran won the football gold medal for the first time in the history of the Asian Games held thus far at that time. Silver medal was awarded to Israel and bronze medal was won by Malaysia. India which had won football gold medal in 1951 and again in 1962, had displayed a poor performance at the Teheran Asian Games. In their opening match with Iraq, India went down tamely, 0-3. In their second preliminary round, India received a 7-1 drubbing from China. The Chinese players exhibited explosive soccer, executed through well-planned maneuvers. By the end of three days, India had forfeited its chance of a second-round berth, having lost all matches.

The finals between Iran and Israel were full of enthusiasm among the spectators who had packed the stadium. The Iranians got an early break when they scored their first and only goal in the first half. At the end of the play, Israel failed to score the equalizer and thereby conceded the match, 1-0.

The curtains came down on 1974 Teheran Asian games on 16 September 1974 when the hosts officially declared the closure of the Seventh Asian Games in a ceremony marked by colourful pageantry and a torch-light tattoo.

**Eighth Asian Games (Bangkok, 1978)**

Bangkok, capital of Thailand, had the distinction of hosting the Eighth Asian Games for the third time in the 27 years history of the Asian Games. Originally,
Pakistan was to host the Eighth Asian Games, but owing to domestic political and financial constraints, Islamabad had to pull out as host and the alternative venue of Singapore as the host was also had to be deferred due to financial reasons. As in the crisis of 1970, Bangkok once again stepped in to save the noble cause of sports and play as host for the 8th Asiad. For Thailand, it became its third Asiad as host in a span of 12 years. It was agreed that in order to save the Asiad, participating countries / NOCs share the cost of organizing the Games. India had reportedly contributed $10,000 to the Asiad for meeting the expenses of the Eighth Asian Games.

The Eighth Asian Games were held at Bangkok from 9 to 20 December 1978 in which 3842 participants from 25 countries took part. There were 19 sports/events designated for the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games. These sports/events inter alia included Athletics, Swimming, Soccer, Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Cycling, Boxing, Wrestling, Weightlifting, Fencing, Shooting, Gymnastics, Hockey, Badminton, Archery, Bowling and Sailing. Archery and bowling were new sports introduced in the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games. Yachting, which was included in the 1970 Asian Games but excluded from the 1974 Teheran Asian Games, again found a place of pride in the list of events designated for the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games.

India’s performance at the Eighth Asian Games held at Bangkok is analyzed under each sport/event below.

**Athletics**

The track and field events, show piece of Asian Games, got underway on 14 December 1978, after a long wait of six days. The main National Stadium was filled to capacity and keen spectators almost from all over Asia greeted their favourites on
with more competitors participating with the addition of 20 km walk event. On the whole the competition was keen, in both men’s and women’s events.

The record breaking spree commenced with the men’s grueling 10,000 metres race in which India’s Hari Chand won the gold medal with a timing of 30 minutes 7.7 seconds. The highlight of the race was the tremendous finish and as Hari Chand burst through like a bullet to breast the tape, the spectators gave him a standing ovation. Myanmar’s runners, Robert and Koko finished second and third respectively.

In the 100 m sprint, Thailand’s Sucharat Jaesuraparp claimed the gold medal with a timing of 10.44 seconds. India’s Guanesekharan, who could not match the superior speed of his Thai rival, came second, clocking 10.60 seconds. South Korea’s Sub Mai-gu claimed the bronze. Asian Games title holder for the 100 m, Anat Ratnapol, finished fourth.

In the 200 m, India’s Guanesekharan easily walked away with the gold medal, overwhelming a false start. Guanesekharan clocked 21.42 seconds. Japan’s Harata claimed the silver medal while past title holder Anat Ratnapol of Thailand had to be content with bronze medal. The 400 m race witnessed the supremacy of Leaiti Abbas of Iraq who won the gold medal with a timing of 46.71 seconds. India bagged the silver medal as well as bronze medal. Uday Prabhu claimed the silver medal by clocking 46.79 seconds and G. K. Kuttan, also from India, got the bronze medal by clocking 47.18 seconds.

In the 800 m, India’s Sri Ram bagged the gold medal, confirming his supremacy in the event with his third successive triumph. Though Sri Ram clocked 1 minute 48.8 seconds, but this was far below his own Asian games record. Neji Faleh of Iraq won silver medal while the bronze medal went to Japan in the same event. The 1500
The 110 m race saw India's Rattan Singh and Sant Kumar leading in the first lap. However, in the third lap, Sant Kumar led, but in the final lap, Japan's Ishit Takashi broke through, maintaining his lead till the end. Japan won the gold medal in the event and silver medal was bagged by Pakistan and India had to be content with bronze medal. India's ace runner Hari Chand won gold medal in the 5,000 m with a timing of 14 minutes 22.0 seconds.

The relay races, as usual, also attracted huge crowds. The 4 x 100 m relay's final saw Thailand winning gold medal by hair's breadth margin. The 4 x 400 m relay witnessed an exciting tussle between Japanese and Indian runners. The Indian runner's performance came to a naught when the Japanese overtook Sri Ram in the final minutes of the last round. Japan took the gold medal by clocking 3 minutes 08.3 seconds while India was given silver medal for clocking 3 minutes 08.4 seconds. Iraq won the bronze medal.

The hurdles race started with the 110 metres. Lai Wai-Wen of China was shocked by his own compatriot Wang Hsun-Lua who won the gold medal. In the 400 m hurdles, Iraq won the gold medal and Japan was placed second, got the silver medal. Iraq was awarded bronze medal in the same event. India's Lehmtar Singh, a strong contender in the beginning, was placed fifth in the final round. The 3000 m Steeplechase and the marathon gold medals were won by Japan. India got the silver medal and bronze medal went to Japan's Histoshi Iwabushi. In the 20 km walk, an event introduced for the first time, India's Hukam Singh walked away with Gold medal with a timing of one hour, 31 minutes 54.9 seconds. Silver and bronze medals in the event went to Malaysia.
Japan dominated the field events. Japan claimed four gold medals while India and China won two gold medals each. The pole vault event saw a close tussle between Japanese and Chinese vaulters. However, Japan’s Tomoni Jakahashi won the gold medal and China won the silver medal. Bronze medal in the same event was also bagged by Japan. In the javelin throw event China claimed gold and bronze medals while silver medal was won by Japan. China bagged gold and silver medals in the discuss throw and triple jump events while Japan won the bronze medals. The situation got reversed in the high jump and hammer throw events with Japan claiming the gold and silver medals and China got bronze medals.

India’s Suresh Babu bagged the long jump gold medal with a leap of 7.85 metres. However, Suresh Babu had almost lost the crown in his winning leap was first declared as foul by the judge. After a few suspenseful moments, the decision was reversed. The long jump silver and bronze medals were bagged by Japan. India’s Bahadur Singh won the gold medal in the shot-put. China’s Chao Pao-Chin was awarded the silver medal in the same event. Bahadur Singh’s very first throw was 17.61 metres while Chao’s throw covered a distance of 17.44 metres.

The women’s track and field events witnessed sporting events at its best. The Chinese women athletes claimed all the gold medals in the field events, besides the three gold medals in the field events. Indian women athletes for the first time proved that they could match the prowess of the best in Asia. India’s star athletes were Angel Mary and Geeta Zutshi. India’s Geeta Zutshi bagged the lone gold medal for India in the 800 m with a timing of 2 minutes 07.7 seconds. She also won the silver medal in the 1,500 m race. Angel Mary won three silver medals, one in the 100
m (14.82 seconds), the other in the long jump event, and the third in the pentathlon event with 3837 points.

North Korea’s Kim Ok Sun bagged the 1,500 metres and the 3,000 metres race in which she broke the record in the latter race. Japan’s performance in the women’s track and field events was, for the first time in Asian Games history, below standard. Japan could get gold medal in the 4 x 400 m relay only. Thailand claimed two gold medals. Malaysia won gold medal in the 400 metres race. It is noteworthy that Chinese women athletes broke Asian Games records in high jump, javelin throw, shot-put and pentathlon events.

Basketball

The basketball tournament had 14 teams competing in three groups. India did not participate in the tournament. Initially there prevailed confusion because the concerned authorities were not aware of India’s non-participation. India’s name was included in the tournament and was scheduled to meet Iraq. After waiting for almost an hour for the Indian team to appear, the officials awarded a walk over to Iraq. It was only when an Indian official had declared that India had decided against sending a team because of its poor performance, during the practice sessions.

China and North Korea emerged as top contenders in the final round robin series of the last six teams. The North Koreans in the match against South Korea, walked off the court in protest against the referee’s decision. The officials awarded the match to South Korea. The finals saw an exciting match between China and South Korea in which China won 91-77, to claim gold medal and South Korea was awarded silver medal. In the women’s events, South Korea defeated China 77-68 in the finals to lift the crown. Japan clinched he bronze medal, beating Thailand, 11-49.
Boxing

In the boxing events, South Korea, while maintaining their position as Asia's numero uno boxing nation, finished the competition by grabbing five gold medals in the bantamweight, lightweight, light heavyweight, welterweight and light middleweight classes. North Korea bagged two gold medals. Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, and Pakistan finished with one gold medal each. India's five-member boxing team had to be content with one silver and two bronze medals. India's Brij Mohan got the silver medal in the heavyweight, losing on points to Pakistan's Intiaz Ahmed. Other two Indians, Maluk and Chinada Machaia won a bronze medal each in the light middleweight and light welterweight respectively.

Hockey

Like the past Asian Games, the hockey finals in the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games were fought between India and Pakistan. The Pakistanis won the championships, beating India 1-0 in a rather dull and unimaginative final match. The all important goal was scored by Pakistan's left-back, Munawar barely seven minutes after the start of the game. After that the match turned into a defensive oriented Affair with missed penalty corners and lack-lustre performance from both sides. Pakistan was awarded six penalty corners out of which only the first was utilized fruitfully. Of the two penalty corners awarded to India, both went to the stoppers, Bhaskaran and Surjit, bumping on uneven ground. It was but natural that both the penalty corners were missed.

Shooting

Competitions in the shooting event were held in 22 events which included individual and team efforts. Chinese shooters shot their way to a tally of eight gold
medals. North Korea bagged seven gold medals while Japan’s tally of gold medals stood at six. On the opening day of the shooting events, China bagged four gold medals. Li-Chin tang of China struck the first gold in the individual air rifle event. Thailand got the silver medal and bronze medal was won by the Philippines. The air rifle team gold medal was China’s for the asking. North Korea won the silver medal while bronze medal was awarded to South Korea. The free pistol individual title was retained by China and it also won gold medal. Silver and bronze medals were grabbed by North Korea. The free pistol team events witnessed China winning the gold medal. Thailand and Japan shared the silver and bronze medals respectively.

In the sheet team events, Japan claimed the gold medal while South Korea won the silver medal and China got the bronze medal. Performance of Indian shooters was poor and they finished a miserable sixth. The Chinese shooters bagged the gold in the Standard Pistol (team), Small-bore Rifle -3 – positions (team), and the Standard Rifle (team) events. The North Koreans bagged the gold medals in the centre-fire pistol, (team), small-bore rifle – 3 – positions and the standard rifle events. Japan’s gold medals were in the air pistol (individual and team), centre-fire pistol (individual), sheet (individual), and trap (team) events. India’s Randhir Singh claimed the gold medal in the trap (individual) event.

**Badminton**

Indonesia’s Liem Surie King won the gold medal in badminton singles by defeating China’s Han Tsi-en, 15-7, 15-11. Indonesia also won the men’s doubles gold medal. The men’s team finals again witnessed Indonesia pitted against China. Indonesia comfortably managed to wrest the men’s team title from china with a 3-1 victory. However, women's singles was an all Chinese affair in which Liu-Lsia beat
her own compatriot Liang Chiu-Lsia, 11-6, 11-5, to win the singles crown. In the women’s team events, defending champion China got the better of their Indonesian rivals, winning 3-0.

In the first singles match, China maintained its supremacy throughout against Indonesia by 11-8, 11-6. In the second singles match, China also defeated Indonesia 11-8, 11-1. Doubles was a close affair between Chiu Yu-fang and Chang Hui-Ming of China and Imelda Wingoeno and Gwan So Tian of Indonesia in which the Chinese won 18-16, 15-10.

**Table Tennis**

Competitions in the table tennis events were conducted in the men’s singles and doubles, men’s team, women’s singles, doubles and team events, and the mixed doubles. Participating players from 14 countries took part in the 20-day tournament. The Chinese players had a field day by making a clean sweep of all seven gold medals. The singles finals for both men and women were held on the last day of the games. In the all Chinese men’s finals Lang Ke-Liang defeated Kuo Yuch-Hua, 21-2, 21-18, 21-18,21-18. in the women’s final Chang Li defeated Chang Te-Ying, 21-17, 21-16, 8-21, 21-16. Chang Li collected a total of four gold medals in table tennis, making herself the outstanding player in the event. The men’s gold went to Kuo Yeh-Hua and Huang Tung-Sheng while the women’s doubles was won by Ching Li and Chang te-Ying. In the mixed doubles, Kuo Yeh-Hua and Chang Li duo won the gold medal.

The team events, held on 15 December 1978, China handed out a 5-0 drubbing to Japan. China’s Liag Ke-Liang defeated Japan’s Masahiro Maehara, 21-16, 21-5, in the first match and then proceeded to beat Navic Takashima, 21-16, 21-19, in the
next match. In the other matches, Kuo Yuch-Hua defeated Hiroyuki Abe, 21-7, 21-7, while Huang Tung-Sheng beat Norio Takashima, 21-17, 21-19.

**Tennis**

Players from 22 participating countries took part in the tennis tournament which was held in the men’s singles, and women’s singles, doubles and team championships and the mixed doubles. Indonesia, having won four of the seven gold medals, was on the top. The Japanese who had won four gold medals at the Teheran Asian Games, had to be content with just two gold medals. India’s performance in the tournament was below satisfaction. India was represented by Chiradeep Mukherjee, Minotra, Narendra Singh and B. M. Balasubramaniyam.

In the men’s final, held on the last day of the games, Indonesia defeated Japan, 7-6, 6-2, to win the gold medal. Indonesia also won gold medal in the men’s doubles. The men’s team events were won by Indonesia which beat Pakistan by 2-1 in the finals. In the mixed doubles that followed, Thailand’s duo defeated their Japanese rivals by 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, in closely contested match. The women’s single gold medal was won by South Korea by defeating China. In the women’s double event, Indonesia won gold medal. South Korea defeated Japan. In the women’s team events, Indonesia trounced South Korea. However, the gold medal was awarded to the Japanese on the basis of overall individual match records, though all three – South Korea, Indonesia and Japan – had won four matches each and lost one.

**Volleyball**

South Koreans winning the volleyball gold medal in the men’s event was almost a historic development in the history of the Asian Games because it was for the first
time that the Koreans had established this feat. Japan was awarded the silver medal while bronze medal went to China. Undoubtedly, the Indian team strove hard; they were unable to make it even to the first six placings. India was placed in a very tough group where it had to face China and South Korea and in each instance India failed to cope up.

In the women’s volleyball event, Japan won gold medal by defeating North Korea, 15-16, 15-3, 15-8 in the final match. The Japanese had a 5-0 record in their group matches. China trounced South Korea to bag the silver medal. An interesting sideline of the volleyball event was the reunion of Wang Kang Lang, a Chinese player with his father who had settled in Thailand after his arrival from China.2

**Weightlifting**

The weightlifting events looked a bit monotonous without the participation of Iran in the Seventh Asian Games. Consequently, competitions were held in the flyweight, middleweight, light heavyweight, middle heavyweight, heavyweight, super heavyweight (110 kg) and the over 110 kg events. Weightlifters from South Korea and Japan gave a good account of their performance. South Korea won four gold medals and Japan was awarded three gold medals. China won a single gold medal, while surprise winners of gold medal were Syria and Libya as well each winning single gold medal. North Korea’s Han Kyung shattered the previous Asian Games record and emerged as a record holder in the snatch event, lifted 105 kg in the snatch, and 130 kg in the jerk to get his total lift of 235 kg.

The bantamweight gold medal was won by North Korea’s yang Eui Yung who equaled the Asian games existing record of the total lift of 250 kg – 105 kg in the snatch and 145 kg in the jerk. South Korea’s Song Song Rim won the gold medal in
the featherweight segment by lifting a total of 267.5 kg. However, the South Korean weightlifter could barely manage to beat China's Tan-Han Yung to the gold, who had also lifted the equal amount of weight. The gold medal was awarded to the South Korean weightlifter in view of the fact that he weighed 0.2 kg less than his Chinese counterpart. In the lightweight class, Japan set a new record in the snatch. The middleweight gold medal was awarded to Libya which had taken part in the Asian Games for the first time. The lightweight gold medal was won by Japan. Gold medal for the middle heavyweight was bagged by Japan as well. In the super heavyweight class (over 110 kg) China's Yang Huai-Ching won the gold medal and set a new record with a total lift of 320 kg – 142.5 kg in snatch and 117.5 kg in jerk.

Wrestling

Competitions in the wrestling events were held in the freestyle, 48 kg, 52 kg, 57 kg, 62 kg, 68 kg, 74 kg, 82 kg, 90 kg and 100 kg and over 100 kg divisions. However, there were no competitions under the Greco-Roman style. India's 9-member wrestling team gave a commendable performance, winning two gold medals and one silver medal. The gold medal winning wrestlers for India were Rajinder Singh and Kartar Singh. In the over 100 kg division, India's Satpal won the silver medal. In the other wrestling bouts, Japan came on the top winning the gold medal in the 48 kg, 52 kg, 57 kg, 100 kg and the over 100 kg divisions. North Korea and Mongolia got one gold medal each, in the 62 kg and 68 kg divisions respectively.

Swimming

Of the 29 swimming events, Japan won gold medals in 25 events and set a record breaking blitz. However, Japanese had their share of surprises as well. The men's 200 metres freestyle event was won by the Philippines and Indonesia was
placed second. Japan bagged the bronze for the same event. The second surprise was sprung by Thailand by winning women’s 200 m freestyle. In the 400 m freestyle as well as 800 m freestyle, Singapore won the gold medals by trouncing Japan. In the diving events, Chinese divers stole march over other competitors. Chinese woman diver, Chen Hsiao-Lsia dazzled the spectators with her daredevil diving skills. Another Chinese woman diver, Yu Tsieu-Li, with 429-45 points also broke the world record. Women’s spring board diving gold medal went to China’s Mei-Chiu Shin while in the men’s diving events, Wo Kuo-Taun and Lin Liu Hong of China won the springboard and high diving events.

Waterpolo

Japan’s supremacy in the waterpolo events was broken by China by winning the gold medal in an exciting final, in which they thrashed the Japanese, 11-1. A highlight of the match was the brilliant goalkeeping by the Chinese captain Lu Chon-Tsing, who made a series of sparkling saves.

Gymnastics

China and Japan dominated the 13-event gymnastic competitions which were the first games to be held on the opening day. The Chinese gymnasts had carried away two gold medals, one silver medal and one bronze medal. By the close of the competition, China had made a rich haul of 10 gold medals while Japan took three gold medals and North Korea got one gold medal. The Chinese female gymnasts, while displaying confidence, elegance and skill, made a clean sweep of team and individual events, excepting for the horse vault which was won by South Korea. In the women’s individual championships, China’s Ho Hsiu-Chu displayed an enthralling performance in the floor, beam and uneven paralleled bars.  Junichi Kitagawa of
Japan won three gold medals in the parallel bars, horizontal bars and the long horse
events.

**Cycling**

There were competitions in eight cycling events – the 1000 m time trial, 4000 m
individual pursuit, 4000 m team pursuit, 100 m road team time, 1000 m individual
team pursuit and the 185 km individual road race. Japanese cyclists won the 100
km road team time trial event, defeating 12 other teams in a grueling finish. South
Koreans came second and the Chinese third. In the 4000 m team pursuit, South
Korean cyclists bagged the gold medal, Indonesia was awarded silver medal and
Hong Kong won the bronze medal. India’s four-member cycling squad finished sixth.
The 185 km individual road race event was won by N. Yoshitaka of Japan, by
clocking 4 hours 49 minutes 27.96 seconds. The Japanese also bagged the gold
medal in the 4000 m individual pursuit. However, in the 1000 m individual time trial
cycling event South Korea claimed the gold medal.³

**Fencing**

It is noteworthy that when fencing event was introduced for the first time in the
1974 Teheran Asian Games, the Japanese and Iranian fencers had shared the spoils
then. However, at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games, China proved its superiority by
winning the gold medal in the sabre (individual), EPP (team), for the men’s events,
and both the gold medals in the women’s events, of foil (individual), sabre (team)
and the EPEE (individual). The South Koreans bagged their lone gold medal in the
foil (team) event.
Bowling

Competitions in the bowling events were introduced for the first time at the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games. The men’s events were divided into the singles, singles-two men, three men and five men. The women’s events were also divided into the same pattern. In the men’s events, Japanese bowlers won the gold medal in the singles and team-two men events. South Korea got the gold medal in the singles-two games events and Thailand bagged the gold medal in the team-three men’s events. Malaysia got the gold medal in the team-five men’s event. In the women’s events the Philippines grabbed gold medals in the singles, singles-two games and the team-five women. Thailand won the gold medal in the team-two and three women events.  

Yachting

It is worth mentioning here that yachting event, which was introduced at the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games, was not included in the 1974 Teheran Asian Games and again in the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games it was reintroduced. Competitions were held in five classes – the enterprise, flying dutchman, fireball, OK and the supermoth. India entered the enterprise, fireball, and OK classes and their only success was in the enterprise class where the Indian duo, S. K. Mongia and D. K. Kumar were placed second. Japan won the gold medal in the flying dutchman, fireball and OK classes. Thailand managed to secure gold medal in the supermoth class.

Archery

Competitions in the archery were held in the men’s individual and team events and the women’s individual and team events. Japanese archers proved their superiority by bagging three of the four gold medals in the men’s individual, men’s
team and women's team events. Korea won the gold medal in the women's individual event.

**Football**

The soccer finals, played on the last day of the Asian Games, saw the North Korea and South Korea fight it out for the coveted gold medal. However, the frustrating outcome was a listless game ending in a tame goalless draw. Both North Korea and South Korea shared the gold medal. China was awarded the bronze medal. Performance of the Indian soccer team was poor, playing unimaginative soccer. In their first round match against Malaysia, the latter got the better of India 7-0. In the second round, India beat Bangladesh 3-0. Thereafter, in the ensuing two matches India lost to Kuwait 1-6 and then to North Korea 1-3, to be eliminated in the finals.5

The curtains came down on the Eighth 1978 Asian Games on 20 December 1978. As India was to host the ninth Asian Games in 1982, hence all eyes were set on New Delhi.

**Ninth Asian Games (New Delhi, 1982)**

Ninth Asian Games held in New Delhi, India from 19 November to 4 December 1982. A record number of 4595 participants from 33 countries took part in the Ninth Delhi Asian Games. this time 21 sports events were included in the Asian Games, which, *inter alia*, included: Athletics, Swimming, Soccer, Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Handball, Cycling, Boxing, Wrestling, Weightlifting, Archery, Shooting, Equestrian, Gymnastics, Hockey, Badminton, Canoeing, Sailing, and Golf. It was almost after a gap of 31 years after its genesis that the Asian Games made a
full circle back to its birth place, New Delhi, India. Within the harmonious fifties to the blustery eighties, the Asiad had been rewarded with better understanding and further promotion of friendship through sports between Asian countries/NOCs. At 9th Asiad, the competing countries/NOCs grew three-fold and participants 9 times. There was a drastic change in the race for medals.

Although the total amount of medals won were the same, China excelled Japan in gold medals. Also, it was the last Asiad to be held under the authority of the Asian Games Federation (AGF) and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) took over the responsibility. Another highlight of the Delhi Asian Games was that the 21 sports had 127 events and the new sports included were – handball, Equestrian, Rowing and Golf. However, Fencing and Bowling were dropped from the schedule of sports meant for the Ninth Asian Games.

An appraisal of the performance of Indian participants in different sports/events at the Ninth Delhi Asian Games is facilitated in the following pages under different sports subheads.

**Athletics**

In the athletics events for men, in 100 m race, Malaysia bagged the gold medal while South Korea got the silver medal and bronze medal was awarded to Thailand. In the 200 m race for men, South Korea bagged the gold medal whereas Japan was awarded silver medal. Malaysia which stood third in the race was given bronze medal. In the 400 m race for men, Japan got the Gold medal and India was awarded silver medal and bronze medal fell in the lap of China. In the 800 m race for men, India’s Charles Borromeo won the gold medal by clocking 1 Minute 46.81 second,
thereby beating the earlier Asian Games record of 1 Minute 47.73 seconds. South Korea got silver medal while bronze medal went to Iraq.

In the 1,500 m race for men, Iraq established new record in the Asian Games and got the gold medal while Japan was awarded silver medal and India got the bronze medal. The 5, 000 m race for men was won by Japan by clocking 13 Minutes 53.74 Seconds, a new record for the Asian Games. Japan was awarded gold medal while China won the silver medal and India bagged the bronze medal. In the 10, 000 m race for men, China bagged the gold medal and the Japanese runner who came second was awarded silver medal and South Korea got the bronze medal.

India's Chand Ram established a new Asian Games record in the 20 km walking race by clocking one hour, 29 minutes 29.0 seconds and was awarded gold medal. As Chinese runners had taken second and third place respectively hence silver and bronze medals for this event were bagged by China. A new record in the Asian Games for the 50 km long walk was established by China which won the gold medal. The silver medal was also bagged by China whereas Japan got the bronze medal. In the marathon race it was South Korea that dominated the scene and was awarded the gold medal. Japan bagged the silver medal and India won the bronze medal.

In the 110 m hurdle race for men, Japan while winning gold medal also established a new record. China bagged the silver medal and India got the bronze medal. In the 400 m hurdle race for men, Japan won the coveted gold medal while silver medal also went to Japan and Bahrain got the bronze medal. In the 3, 000 m hurdle race it was Japan that won the gold medal and India was awarded silver medal. The Philippines got the bronze medal.
In the high jump event, China won gold medal and silver medal was awarded to Japan. In the long jump event it was South Korea that was awarded gold medal and China secured the silver medal. Japan had to be content with bronze medal. In the triple jump event, the Chinese player established a new record and bagged the gold medal. Japan was awarded silver medal while India got bronze medal.

In the pole vault event, Japan dominated the scene by winning gold and silver medals, and China got bronze medal. In the javelin throw event, Japan got gold medal, South Korea won silver medal and India’s Gurtej Singh was awarded bronze medal. In the discuss throw, China was awarded the gold medal as well as bronze medal. India’s Kuldip Singh won silver medal. In the hammer throw event, India’s Bahadur Singh established a new record in the Asian Games as well as bagged gold medal for his country. India’s Balvinder Singh was given bronze medal in the same event while silver medal was bagged by Kuwait. In the decathlon event, China dominated by winning gold and silver medals while bronze medal was won by Qatar.

In the athletic events for women, in the 100 m race Philippines got the gold medal, India won the silver medal and South Korea got bronze medal. In the 200 m race for women, Japan was on top while India’s P. T. Usha was placed second and South Korea came third. Japan dominated the 400 m race for women by winning gold and silver medals and India’s Padmini Thomas had to be content with bronze medal. North Korea won the gold medal in the 800 m race for women while India’s Gita Zutshi got silver medal and China got bronze medal. It was North Korea that kept its grip over 1,500 m race for women by winning gold and bronze medals while India’s Gita Jutshi was awarded silver medal. North Korea again dominated the 3,
000 m race for women by winning upper two slots – gold medal and silver medal – and Japan got the bronze medal.

In the 100 m hurdle race for women, Japan bagged gold and silver medals while bronze medal was won by China. In the 400 m hurdle race for women, India's M. D. Valsamma not only won the gold medal but also established a new record in the event. Japan secured silver medal and bronze medal was bagged by China. China dominated the high jump event for women by winning gold and bronze medal while Japan got silver medal. China maintained its supremacy in the long jump event for women as well by winning gold and bronze medals while India's Mersy Kuttan got silver medal.

Swimming

In the swimming events for men, in 100 m freestyle, Singapore bagged gold medal while China got silver medal and Indonesia secured bronze medal. India's Sanjeev Chakravarty was placed eighth. In the 200 m freestyle event for women, China bagged silver and bronze medals while gold medal was awarded to Philippines. India's Ranjay Punja could not qualify for the finals. In the 400 m freestyle swimming event for women, Japan bagged gold medal while Philippines got silver medal and bronze medal fell into the lap of China. India's Dharampal Tokas was placed eighth. In the 1,500m freestyle event for men, Japan dominated the event by bagging both gold as well as silver medals while Philippines was awarded bronze medal. Dharampal Tokas of India was placed eighth.

In the 100 m backstroke event for men, Japan bagged gold as well as silver medals and Indonesia won bronze medal. India's Wilson Cherian was placed at fifth rank while Ranjay Punja, also from India was placed at eighth rank. In the 200 m
backstroke event, Japan bagged gold medal while China got silver medal and Indonesia got bronze medal. India’s Wilson Cherian was placed fifth and Ranjay Punja secured eighth place.

In the 200 m breaststroke event for men, Japan dominated the show by bagging gold and bronze medals while China got silver medal. India’s Jay Kumar and Thoba Singh could not reach the finals. In the 100 m breaststroke event, China bagged gold medal while silver medal was won by Japan and bronze medal also went to China. In the 100 m butterfly event, Japan bagged gold medal and China won silver medal. Singapore could win bronze medal. India’s Khazan Singh could not make up to the finals of this event. In the 200 m butterfly swimming event for men, Japan dominated the event by having secured gold and bronze medals while South Korea bagged silver medal.

In the 200 m individual medley event, China bagged gold medal while Japan grabbed silver as well as bronze medals. India’s Khazan Singh was placed seventh. In the 400 m individual medley event, Japan dominated by winning gold and bronze medals while China got solver medal. Khazan Singh of India was placed at fourth rank. In the 4 x 100 m freestyle relay event for men, China was awarded gold medal and Japan got silver medal. Indonesia could win bronze medal. India ranked fourth in that event. In the 4 x 200 m freestyle, gold medal was bagged by Japan while China won silver medal and Indonesia got bronze medal. India was placed fourth. In the 4 x 100 m medley relay Japan got gold medal while China acquired silver medal and Indonesia had secured bronze medal. India ranked sixth.

In the swimming events for women, in 100 m freestyle, Japan dominated the show by winning the top two slots and China was content with bronze medal. India’s
Panas Madaan could not qualify for the finals. In the 200 m freestyle event for women, Japan again dominated the scene by winning gold and silver medals while China got bronze medal. Indian swimmer Anita Sood could not reach the finals. In the 400 m freestyle, it was Japan again to dominate by securing gold and silver medals and South Korea was able to win bronze medal. Anita Sood of India was placed fifth. In the 800 m freestyle event for women, it was Japan that reigned supreme by having bagged gold and silver medals. South Korea could win bronze medal. India’s Anita Sood was again placed fifth.

In the 100 m backstroke event for women, South Korea won both gold and silver medals while Japan had to be content with bronze medal. Indian swimmer Persis Madaan was placed sixth. South Korean female swimmers continued their medal winning spree when in the 200 m backstroke event; they bagged gold and silver medals. Japan won bronze medal. India’s Persis Madaan was placed sixth in this event. The 100 m breaststroke event for women saw Japan bagging gold medal while North Korea got silver medal and China winning bronze medal. India’s two swimmers – Kiranmala and Gita Anand could not make to the finals of this event. In the 200 m breaststroke event, Japan won gold medal while North Korea bagged silver medal and China won bronze medal. India’s Gita Anand was laced eighth.

In the 100 m butterfly swimming event for women, Japan dominated the event by bagging gold and silver medals while China could win bronze medal. India swimmer Bula Chaudhary was placed eighth. Japan continued its medal winning spree in the 200 m butterfly event as well when it won gold and silver medals while South Korea could win bronze medal. Bula Chaudhary of India was placed at seventh rank. In the 200 m individual medley South Korea won gold medal while South
Korea and Japan shared silver medal. China was awarded bronze medal. India’s Persis Madaan was placed eighth. Japan dominated the 400 m individual medley event by bagging gold as well as silver medals while South Korea had to be content with bronze medal. India swimmer Persis Madaan was placed seventh in this event. In the 4 x 100 m freestyle relay event, Japan won gold medal while China won silver medal and Singapore got bronze medal. India was placed at sixth rank.

Weightlifting

The categories in the weightlifting events were: 52 kg, 56 kg, 60 kg, 67.5 kg, 75 kg, 82.5 kg, 90 kg, 100 kg, 110 kg, and above 110 kg. In the 52 kg class, China weightlifter lifted 107.5 kg in snatch and established new record. China was awarded gold medal while Japan and Indonesia got silver and bronze medals respectively. In the 56 kg class, China got gold medal while silver and bronze medals were won by North Korea. In the 60 kg category, China won gold as well as bronze medals while North Korea bagged silver medal. In the 67.5 kg class, China won gold as well as bronze medals while Japan got the silver medal. In the 75 kg class, Iran bagged gold medal while China won silver medal and Iraq secured bronze medal. In the 82.5 kg category, Japan was awarded gold medal while Lebanon won silver medal and North Korea got bronze medal.

In the 90 kg class, China got gold medal as well as bronze medal while Japan could win silver medal. In the 100 kg class, South Korea was awarded gold medal and Japan got silver medal. India’s Gian Singh Cheema had won bronze medal by lifting a total of 320 kg (snatch 135 kg and jerk 185 kg). In the 110 kg category, South Korea won gold medal while North Korea got silver medal. India’s Tara Singh got bronze medal and his total lift was 335 kg (snatch 135 kg, and clean and jerk.
90 kg). In the super heavyweight class above 110 kg, Syria bagged gold medal while silver medal went to Iran and bronze medal was won by China.

**India’s Performance in Other Events**

Chand Ram had won first gold medal for India in 20 km walk when the Ninth Asian Games had commenced in New Delhi. Subsequently Bahadur Singh displayed excellent performance by winning gold medal for India in the hammer throw. Among the women athletes of Indian contingent at the Ninth Asian Games, Devasia Valsamma was the lone Indian woman athlete to earn gold medal for India in the 400 m hurdle race for women. Besides, Charles Boromeo won gold medal for India in the 800 m race. Satpal had won gold medal for India in the 100 kg wrestling class at the Ninth Asian Games. Kaur Singh earned gold medal for India in heavyweight category of boxing.

The 16-member women’s Hockey team of India also gave a fine account of its performance at the 1982 Ninth Asian Games at New Delhi. Indian women’s Hockey team won gold medal for India. Golf event was introduced for the first time in the Asian Games at the Ninth Asiad at New Delhi. India unexpectedly won two gold medals in the Golf event. In the individual competition, India’s golfer Laxman Singh trounced the renowned golfers from Malaysia, Japan, Pakistan and Korea and earned 21.5 points and won gold medal for India. The Indian team of golfers comprising Amit Luthra, Rajiv Nohta, Rishi Narayan and Laxman Singh, won second gold medal in golf event for India. The Horse riding event was another event that had been introduced for the first time in the Asian Games at the Ninth Asian Games held in 1982 at New Delhi. The India horse riders displayed their skills and won three gold
medals for India. In the fireball event, India duo Farookh Tarapore and Zahir Koranjia won gold medal for India.  

**Tenth Asian Games (Seoul, 1986)**

Seoul, capital of South Korea, became the venue of the Tenth Asian Games which were held from 20 September to 4 October 1986. In all 4835 participants from 25 countries had taken part in it. This time 25 sports/events had been included in the Tenth Asian Games. Seoul’s great success was a prelude to Seoul Olympic Games in 1988. Although the weather on the day of the Opening Ceremony was not kind, the Olympic Stadium with capacity of 100,000 was filled to the brim. The 10th Asiad was the first one to be supervised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The new sporting events added to the Seoul Asian Games were Bowling, Fencing, Judo, and Taekwondo.

In medal tally, South Korea showed splendid effort against China and won in total number of medals but lost in the race for gold. On the other hand, Japan slipped further in ranking, placing third. The era of China-Korea domination had begun. The highlight of the Seoul Asian Games was 25 sports having 270 events and resurgent interest among Asian countries towards Asian Games which were devoid of politics.

**Volleyball**

China emerged victorious in women’s volleyball by defeating Korea 3-0. In the finals, China defeated South Korea 15-7, 15-2, 15-7 and bagged gold medal. South Korea got bronze medal in the five team robin round competition. Japan was awarded silver medal.
Basketball

China's triumph in men's basketball was hard-earned because in the finals China was at one stage defeated by South Korea by 11 points but after struggling for few minutes China was able to defeat Korea 77-74 in the last seven minutes of the match. China was awarded gold medal while South Korea bagged silver medal. The Philippines got bronze medal in the round robin competition among eight countries.

In the women's basketball event, China won gold medal by trouncing South Korea 78-64 while South Korea bagged silver medal. In the round robin competition among four countries, Japan got bronze medal.

Taekwondo

South Korea maintained its dominant position in Taekwondo, its traditional martial arts sports, at the Tenth Asian Games. Qatar and Bahrain bagged bronze medals. Japan and Nepal also managed to grab two bronze medals in this sporting event. South Korea had claimed to win all eight medals in this event, but Iran bagged one gold medal thereby South Korea won seven gold medals.

Waterpolo

China grabbed the gold medal in waterpolo event. China registered its victory over India in a one-sided competition 22-5. India had won bronze medal at the Ninth Asian Games in the Waterpolo. However, at the Tenth Asian Games, India could not win even a single match in the round robin competition in Waterpolo event. South Korea bagged sliver medal and bronze medal was acquired by Singapore.
Yachting

Japan’s supremacy in yachting event had been curtailed at the Ninth Asian Games. Competitions for yachting events continued for seven days in which Japan bagged two silver medals and one bronze medal. South Korea won two gold medals and one bronze medal. China could win two gold medals and one bronze medal. India’s duo team of Farookh Tarapore and Dhruv Bhandari could win a silver medal for India. The Indian team lagged behind China in the sixth round thereby missing gold medal.

Table Tennis

South Korea’s players dominated the table tennis events at the Tenth Seoul Asian Games by registering their victory in the team matches for men as well as women and individual men’s singles. In the women’s singles performance of the Chinese players was superb. The teams of four countries – South Korea, Japan, China and Hong Kong – had entered the super league matches in table tennis event. South Korean team emerged victorious. China was placed second. The Indian men’s team was placed fifth. The South Korean women’s team also bagged gold medal. In the men’s singles individual event, South Korea bagged gold medal. The Chinese players won men’s singles matches in different categories. India’s Kamlesh Mehta and Manmeet Singh could not go beyond quarter-finals. The Indian duo Kamlesh and Sujay Shorepade also ceded to South Korea in the men’s doubles match. In the women’s mixed doubles, India’s Arun Jyoti and Monalisa Barua were also trounced. Other Indian participants had already
Shooting

China dominated the shooting events by grabbing 15 gold medals, 10 silver medals and 7 bronze medals. China's Hsu Hei Fanck had won four gold medals. South Korean shooters were placed in second rank in the total medal tally. Japan also gave a fine account of performance. On the last day of the event, Thailand shooters won two gold medals. However, performance of the Indian shooters was not up to the mark. The Indian participants in the shooting events failed to repeat their performance of the Ninth Asian Games. India's woman shooter Somdatta bagged a silver medal and a bronze medal in the shooting events. Besides, India managed to get a bronze medal in the Small Bore Standards Rifle competition. India's Randhir Singh was ranked 17th in the trap event. India's performance in clay target team competition and air pistol team competition was also below expectations.

Cycling

In the cycling events for men, Japan grabbed four gold medals. China, Iran and South Korea could win gold medal each. China and South Korea almost dominated cycling events for women. China bagged one gold medal and two silver medals while South Korea could win one gold medal and two bronze medals. Performance of Indian participants in cycling events for men as well as women was below standard. India's Jasmine Arethana, a medal hopeful, was ranked sixth in the women's sprint event and in 6.4 km road race she was placed at the last. In the cycling events for men, India's Maxwell Travel was placed seventh in the one km time trial race.
**Horse-riding**

At the Tenth Asian Games, the organizers of the Games declared five Indian horses as 'unfit' on the basis of serum test thereby dashing the Indian hopes of winning the medal in the horse-riding events. It was widely believed that Korean officials had deliberately taken such a decision in order to pave way for the Korean horse riders’ smooth victory in the events. It is worth mentioning here that the same contingent of horses was found fit during the serum test held in Britain earlier. Though South Korea managed to win gold medals in 'Team Dressing', 'Individual Dressing', and three-day long individual demonstration, but Korean dreams of sweeping all medals of the events was shattered by Japan. The Indian horse-riders gave a good performance even on new horses and succeeded in bagging bronze medals for Team Dressing and three-day demonstration events.

**Weightlifting**

China and South Korea almost dominated the weightlifting events at the tenth Asian Games. China succeeded in grabbing five gold medals and four silver medals while South Korea won three gold medals, one silver medal and one bronze medal in the weightlifting events. Japan's tally of medals in weightlifting events included one gold, two silver and two bronze medals. China reigned supreme in the light and middle weight categories of weightlifting events. In the heavyweight class, Japan’s performance was better than others.

**Tennis**

South Korea bagged four gold medals in the tennis events of team, men's singles, men's doubles and men's mixed doubles. The Chinese women players performed well in the team and women's singles events. Indonesia won gold medal
in women's doubles event. At the Tenth Asian Games, India's men's team failed to reach even up to semi-finals. India's men's team was trounced by Indonesia 3-0 at the quarter-finals and in the same manner India's women's team was defeated by Japan at the quarter-finals. Performance of Indian participants in other categories of tennis events was not good because most of them had been trounced by their rivals in the first round.

**Boxing**

The boxing events at the Tenth Asian Games were dominated by South Korea which made a clean sweep of all ten gold medals. The partisan attitude of the Korean judges in awarding gold medals to Korean players was noticeable on many occasions. Siri Jairam, the Indian boxer in the light welterweight class, became a victim of this unfortunate decision. Jairam, having fought well in the three rounds wherein he overwhelmed his Korean rival, had to be content with silver medal owing to indiscriminate judgement of the judges.⁹ India’s Birajdar Sahu won silver medal in the flyweight class and Daljit Singh won silver medal for India in the heavyweight category. In the super heavyweight class, India's Jaipal Singh earned silver medal for India. Apart from four silver medals, the Indian boxing team also bagged five bronze medals at the Tenth Asian Games. Manjitpal Singh in middleweight, Gundi Das Kamble in the bantamweight, John Williams in the featherweight and Dhan Bahadur Gurung in the light heavyweight had earned bronze medals for India. Thus overall performance of the 12-member boxing team of India at the Tenth Asian Games could be said to be satisfactory.
Football

South Korea won gold medal for football event by defeating Saudi Arabia 2-0 in the finals. In 1970 and 1978, South Korea had jointly won the gold medal. In the semi-final, South Korea had trounced Indonesia 4-0. Saudi Arabia having trounced Iraq in the quarter-final and Kuwait in the semi-finals had made the task easy for South Korea to grab the gold medal. However, performance of the Indian team, which had won gold medal in 1951 and 1962 Asian games, continued to e below expectations at the Tenth Asian Games. The Indian team lost its first match to South Korea 3-0, second to China 2-1 and third to Bahrain 3-0 and thus ousted from the competition.

Badminton

China and South Korea, who almost dominated the badminton events, were evenly placed as well at the Tenth Asian Games. In the men's team match South Korea defeated China and in the individual competition events, Chinese dominated the scene. China also dominated in women's team events. India could win bronze medal in the men's team. India's Prakash had succeeded in defeating China's player to reach the semi-final. However, there was no other success attained by India.

India's Performance in Other Sports

Performance of P. T. Usha in athletics at the Tenth Asian Games when she won gold medal for India in the 400 m hurdle race was perhaps the only saving grace for Indian athletic squad. Shinee Abraham got silver medal in the 400 m race. Suman Rawat secured bronze medal for India in the 3, 000 m race. Chand Ram was awarded Bronze medal in the 20 km long walk and R. S. Bal got bronze in the hammer throw. India's performance in the wrestling was not satisfactory. But for the
single gold medal won by Kartar Singh and two bronze medals won by Suresh Kumar and Gumukh Singh respectively, the rest of the 20-member wrestling squad had returned empty-handed.

In the overall medal tally, India had won 37 medals (5 gold medals, 9 silver medals and 23 bronze medals) at the Tenth Asian Games held at Seoul in 1986. Thus India was placed at fifth rank while China was on top with a total of 222 medals of which 94 were gold medals, followed by South Korea’s tally of 224 medals, including 93 gold medals and Japan’s total medal tally of 211 which included 58 gold medals. As compared to China, Japan and South Korea, India’s performance in the Asian Games was lagging behind in many fields.

Eleventh Asian Games (Beijing, 1990)

China which had been participating in the Asian games from 1974 soon carved a niche of its own in the various Aslads held since then by dominating the various fields of sporting events and giving a tough competition to the traditional dominant countries like South Korea and Japan. Beijing, capital of People’s Republic of China became the venue of Eleventh Asian Games, which were held there from 22 September to 7 October 1990. 4755 participants from 33 countries of Asia had taken part in these games. There were 27 sports that had 308 events. As the host country, China demonstrated its pride and strength by winning nearly 60 per cent of gold medals (183), securing its stand as the Asian super-power in sports.

Indian participants took part in archery, athletics, boxing, cycling, golf, hockey, judo, kabbadi, canoeing, boating, shooting, swimming, tennis, weightlifting, wrestling, and yacht racing etc. India had won a total medal tally of 23 medals, which, inter alia, included one gold medal, 8 silver medals and 14 bronze medals.
This medal tally did not augur well for India’s performance at the Beijing Asian Games. India could win a bronze medal in the tennis events which showed no performance. Prior to the commencement of Beijing Asiad, it was hoped that India would emerge as fourth or fifth rank holder in the overall medal tally and gold medal tally as well. However, India was pushed to the eleventh place and smaller countries like Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Indonesia etc., had outpaced India.

India was nursing high ambitions of reaping a good harvest of medals in the realm of athletics and it was in athletics that India got the minimum number of medals. It was for the first time in the annals of the Asian games that out of 43 gold medals designated for athletics, India failed to win even a single gold medal at the Eleventh Asian Games.

Beijing Asian Games were the largest show thus as far as Asian Games were concerned in which participants from 33 countries were engaged in fierce competition to grab as much as they could out of 308 gold medals. However, China continued to dominate the show and kept up its medal winning spree from the very start of the Games till its termination. China’s total medal tally stood at 341 medals out of which 183 were gold medals, 107 silver medals and 51 bronze medals. South Korea which was placed second had earned a total tally of 181 medals of which 54 were gold medals, 54 were silver medals and 73 were bronze medals. Japan was pushed to third rank with a total medal tally of 174 medals of which 38 were gold medals, 60 silver medals and 76 bronze medals.

In the athletics, China grabbed 11 gold medals in men’s class and 18 gold medals in women’s class athletics. China continued its medal winning spree by winning 27 gold medals out of 40 gold medals in shooting, 27 gold medals in
swimming, making a clean sweep of gold medals in the rowing event, 9 gold medals in women's weightlifting events, four gold medals in the women's cycling events, 10 gold medals in canoeing, as well as two gold medals in the volleyball as well.

South Korea excelled in archery by winning four gold medals, 11 gold medals in wrestling 5 gold medals in men's weightlifting events, 3 gold medals in canoeing, and two gold medals in the handball event.

Following Table 5.1 shows medals won by India in different sporting events at the Eleventh Asian Games:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Serial No</th>
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<th>G</th>
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</tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


It is revealed from Table 5.1 that India could win single gold medal in Kabbaddi and it was a saving grace for India. It is further observed that India earned eight silver medals, of which three were in athletics, one in boxing and one in men's hockey. In the weightlifting events India could earn two silver medals while in wrestling it got one silver medal. Of the 14 bronze medals earned by India at the 1990 Beijing Asian Games, two were in athletics, one in rowing, one in shooting, one
in tennis and two medals in weightlifting. It is further discerned that India got one bronze medal in wrestling and two in yachting.

Twelfth Asian Games (Hiroshima, 1994)

When Hiroshima in Japan hosted the Twelfth Asian Games from 2 to 16 October 1994, many significant geopolitical developments had occurred around the world in general and Asia in particular. The disintegration of the erstwhile Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War led to the emergence of former Soviet Republics as independent juridical and political entities in Central Asia as well as in the Balkan region as well. The five Central Asian Republics joined the Asiad movement and at the Twelfth Asian Games these Republics were represented by their player participants. It was perhaps for the first time in the history of the Asian Games, an Asiad was held in non-capital city of the host country. Leveled by Atomic Bomb during the Second World War, for the city of Hiroshima Japan, peace and harmony were the theme it carried in hosting 12th Asian Games. It also marked the second Asiad to be held in Japan since 3rd Asian Games in Tokyo, 1958. As if to echo its theme, Cambodia, surviving years of civil strife, made its come back to the Asian Games after a gap of two decades.

There were 6828 participants from 42 countries at the 12th Asian Games. There were in all 34 sporting events included in these Games, including baseball, Karatedo, modern Pentathlon, and Soft Tennis.12 With the inclusion of Central Asian Republics, the competition in the 12th Asian games had become tough for many events because these very countries formed a part of former Soviet Union and their players had given a fine performance in the Olympic Games and it was for the first time that
participants from these countries were exposed to Asian Games and their performance was worth watching.

The performance of top 10 countries, including India, at the 12th Asia Games in terms of medals won is shown in Table 5.2

**TABLE 5.2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>56</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>183</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
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</table>


It is observed from Table 5.2 that China dominated the 12th Asian Games by topping the total medal tally. Of the 266 medals bagged by China, 125 were gold medals, 83 silver medals and 58 bronze medals. China was followed by Japan which had grabbed 218 medals, of which 64 were gold medals, 75 silver medals and 78 were bronze medals. South Korea, which ranked third in the overall medal tally, including gold medals, had bagged a total of 183 medals, out of which 63 were gold medals, 56 silver medals and 64 bronze medals. Kazakhstan, a Central Asian Republic and a new entrant to the Asian Games, having participated at the 12th Asian Games for the first time displayed good performance by bagging a total of 77
metals, of which 25 were gold medals, 26 silver medals and equal number of bronze medals, i.e., 26 bronze medals.

It is further revealed from Table 5.2 that Uzbekistan, another Central Asian Republic, participating in the 12th Asian Games, was placed fifth in terms of overall tally of medals and gold medals won by it. The total medal tally won by Uzbekistan stood at 40, of which 10 were gold medals, 11 were silver medals and 19 were bronze medals. Iran followed the next by having won a total of 26 medals, of which 9 were gold medals, 9 were silver medals and the number of bronze medals won by it stood at 8. Taiwan's total medal tally stood at 43 of which 7 were gold medals.

It is further observed from Table 5.2 that India, in terms of the overall medals tally, including gold medals won at the 12th Asian Games, ranked eighth by having won a total tally of 23 medals, of which 4 were gold medals, three silver medals and 15 bronze medals. India was followed by Malaysia with a total of 19 medals, including 4 gold medals. Qatar bagged 20 medals in all, including 3 gold medals and Indonesia's total medal tally at the 12th Asian Games stood at 26 including 3 gold medals.

Thirteenth Asian Games (Bangkok, 1998)

The Thirteenth Asian Games were held in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, from 6 to 20 December 1998 and it was for the fourth time that Bangkok was playing host to the Asian Games. It had hosted 5th, 6th and 8th Asian Games in the recent past. With eventual hosting of the Olympic Games in sight, Thailand's effort to host 13th Asiad had begun as far back as in 1988, during the Seoul Olympiad. Due to dwindling Asian economy that resulted in devastating Asian currency crisis of 1997 to 98, serious concerns were raised on feasibility of Thailand for staging the Games.
However, galvanized with know-how of hosting three successful Asiad and
dedication, Bangkok bounced back stronger than ever before to stage one of the
greatest Asian Games. Also, it was the Games with comprehensive marketing plan
for generating revenues shared by member countries NOCs for promotion of sports.
Among 36 sports and 2 demonstration events, Rugby, Billiards & Snooker and
Squash were added to the list. China, South Korea and Japan were top three
contenders for medals, and Thailand, Kazakhstan and Chinese Taipei did quite well,
also.

There were 6554 participants from 42 countries that took part in the 13th Asian
Games held at Bangkok. There were in all 36 sports selected for the 13th Bangkok
Asian Games. China, South Korea and Japan dominated the Bangkok Asiad in terms
of grabbing overall medal tally as well as in terms of gold medals. China had
amassed 274 medals, of which 129 were gold medals, 78 silver medals and 67
bronze medals. South Korea was placed second with its total medal tally of 164 of
which 65 were gold medals, 46 silver medals and 53 were bronze medals. Japan,
which came third, had bagged 181 medals of which 52 were gold medals, 61 silver
medals and 68 bronze medals.

The performance of Indian participants in the 13th Asian Games was better than
the past. India was placed ninth by having won a total medal tally of 35, of which 7
were gold medals, 11 silver medals and 17 bronze medals. Medals won by India at
the 13th Bangkok Asian Games in different sports are shown in the following Table
5.3.
TABLE 5.3
MEDALS WON BY INDIA AT THE THIRTEENTH ASIAN GAMES

<table>
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</table>

Source: Compiled from www.oacasia.org/default.asp

Performance of Indian players in the athletics at the 13th Bangkok Asian Games brought India two gold medals, six silver medals and 7 bronze medals, as shown in Table 5.3. India's Jyotirmoy Sikdar was awarded gold medal in the 800 m race in a record time of 2 minutes 01.00 seconds. The second gold medal in athletics was also bagged by Jyotirmoy Sikdar in winning the 1,500 m race in 4 minutes 12.82 seconds. In the 5,000 m race for women, Sunita Rani was awarded the silver medal. India bagged two silver medals in the 4 x 400 m relay race for men as well as for women. India's Shakti Singh bagged silver medal in shotput and Anil Kumar was awarded silver medal for discuss throw. The sixth silver medal for India was won by Roza Kutty in the 800 m race for women.

As shown in Table 5.3, India bagged gold medal in men's hockey by defeating South Korea in a tiebreaker 5-6. Prior to that in the league matches, India had defeated South Korea 2-1, Bangladesh 7-0, and Singapore 9-0. In the semifinals, India had defeated Japan by 3-1. India won silver medal in the women's hockey.
Undoubtedly, in the round robin league match India had equaled Japan by 1-1 but in the final South Korea defeated India by 2-1 and bagged gold in the women’s hockey and India had to be content with silver medal. It can be observed from Table 5.3 that India won 2 gold medals, one silver medal as well as one bronze medal in the billiards. India’s Geet Sethi and Ashok Shandilya had won gold medal for India in the doubles. Geet Sethi also bagged a silver medal in billiards for India.

In the boxing event, Dingo Singh grabbed a gold medal for India in the bantamweight boxing championship. It was after 1982 Asiad that India had won gold medal in the boxing event. The gold medal won by India in the Kabaddi event at the 13th Asian Games was a hat trick because it was its third victory in a row in the Asian Games. India’s Jaspal Rana, a gold medal hopeful, lost the top slot just because of a bad pistol, and had to be content with silver medal. Sunita Rani, another gold medal hopeful, had to be satisfied with silver medal just because of a judgement based on photo-finish. In the tennis event, India got a bronze medal. India’s Maleishwari bagged silver medal in the weightlifting event for women by lifting a total weight of 230 kg.

Fourteenth Asian Games (Busan, 2002)

The Fourteenth Asian Games were held in Busan, South Korea, from 2 to 16 October 2002. A record number of 9,782 participants from 42 countries took part in it. Afghanistan had participated after a long gap and new entry was that of East Timor. Another highlight of the Busan Asiad was the participation of North Korea. There were 38 sports14 having 420 events. China continued to maintain its top position by having won 308 medals, of which 150 were gold medals, 84 silver medals and 74 bronze medals. South Korea ranked second with a total medal tally of
of which 96 were gold medals, 80 silver medals and 84 bronze medals. Japan
was placed third with a total medal tally of 190, of which 44 were gold medals, 74
silver medals and 72 bronze medals.

In the overall performance, India was placed eighth, having bagged 35 medals,
of which 10 were gold medals, 12 silver medals and 13 bronze medals. India’s
winning of medals in different sports at the Fourteenth Busan Asian Games is shown
in Table 5.4.

**TABLE 5.4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No</th>
<th>Sports</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kabaddi</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from www.ocado.org/default.asp

It is observed from Table 5.4 that in the athletics, India bagged an overall tally
of 16 medals, of which 6 were gold medals, 6 silver medals and four bronze medals.
In the 800 m race for men, K.K. Mathew of India bagged the silver medal. P.
Ramachandran of India was awarded silver medal in men’s 4 x 400 m race. In the
hammer throw event, S. Bahadur Singh won gold medal for India while bronze
medal was awarded to Anil Kumar in the discuss throw event. In the women’s
athletics, Saha Saraswati bagged gold medal in the 200 m race for India. K. M. Banam got silver medal in 100 m race for women. Madhuri Saxena had won silver and bronze medals in 1,500 m and 5,000 m race events for women respectively. India bagged gold medal in 4 x 400 m event for women.

It becomes discernible from Table 5.4 that in the high jump event for women, A. Bobby of India bagged silver medal and in the long jump event for women she was awarded gold medal. In the discuss throw event for women, Neelam Jaswanta of India bagged gold medal while Vishwas Goma of India secured silver medal in the Heptathlon event for women.

Another gold medal came to India in the snooker doubles while in the billiards singles S. Geet Varma of India was awarded bronze medal and in the billiards doubles India shared silver medal. In the flyweight weightlifting event for men, India procured bronze medal while in the tennis events India bagged one gold medal, one silver medal and two bronze medals. In the shooting events India had to be content with two silver medals.

India’s runner Sunita Rani, who had won gold medal in the women’s 1,500 m and the bronze medal in the 5,000 m event, was stripped of the Asian Games medals after she tested positive of Nandrolone, which enhances muscle growth and is one of the products on the International Olympic Committee’s list of banned products. This incident pushed India from seventh place to eighth position.15

**Conclusion**

It emerges from the brief analysis of the performance of Indian players in various Asian Games that with the exception of two or three Asian Games, the performance of Indian players in general could not be said to be satisfactory. On the
other hand, new entrants like China and some of the Central Asian Republics not only displayed excellent performance but continued to improve upon their performance after each event. India’s praiseworthy performance was in the 1951 Asian games while it was placed second by winning a total of 52 medals, of which 15 were gold medals, 16 silver medals and 21 bronze medals. In the subsequent Asian Games, India’s position ranked between seventh and tenth.

There followed a deterioration in India’s performance. Athletic events contain highest number of medals as compared to other sporting events and whenever India’s overall medal tally witnessed increase or decrease it was mainly due to Indian athletic contingent’s performance. Besides, the selectors seemed to ignore the warnings that came after each Asian Game and continued to follow the beaten track instead of reckoning the new ground realities and accordingly make improvements in the India teams to be sent to the Asian Games. Other countries sent their players to the Asian Games as preparatory to the ensuing Olympic Games so that they could pre-judge the performance of their players and make suitable amendments before sending them to Olympics. However, this sort of policy and farsightedness was missing in case of India because of India’s more miserable performance in the Olympic Games held during that period.
Notes


5. Ibid, p. 166.


11. These five Central Asian Republics were – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.


14. Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Billiard & Snooker, Bowling, Boxing, Canoeing, Cycling, Equestrian, Fencing, Soccer, Golf,