



**Research Unit**  
Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India



## INDIA AT 19<sup>TH</sup> ASIAN GAMES

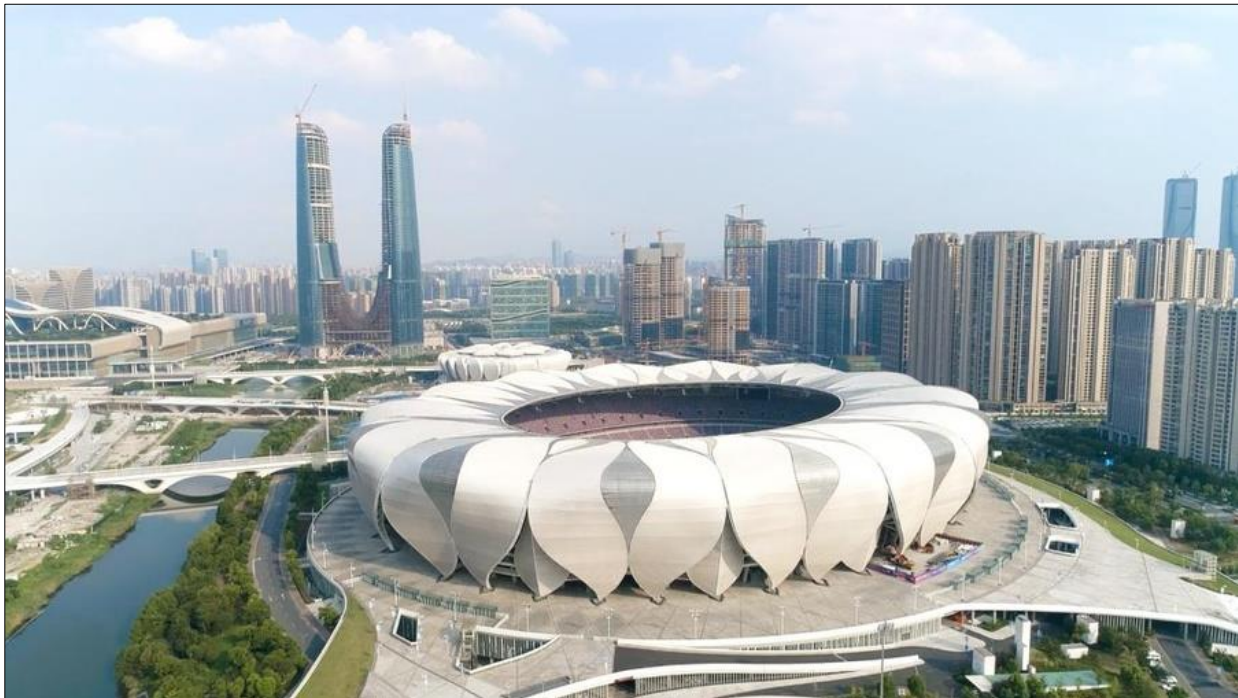
September 22, 2023

*“We are encouraging youngsters to pursue career in sports. Initiatives like TOPS are benefitting the youngsters to prepare for major sporting events.”*

- [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#)

### 19<sup>TH</sup> ASIAN GAMES - HANGZHOU, CHINA

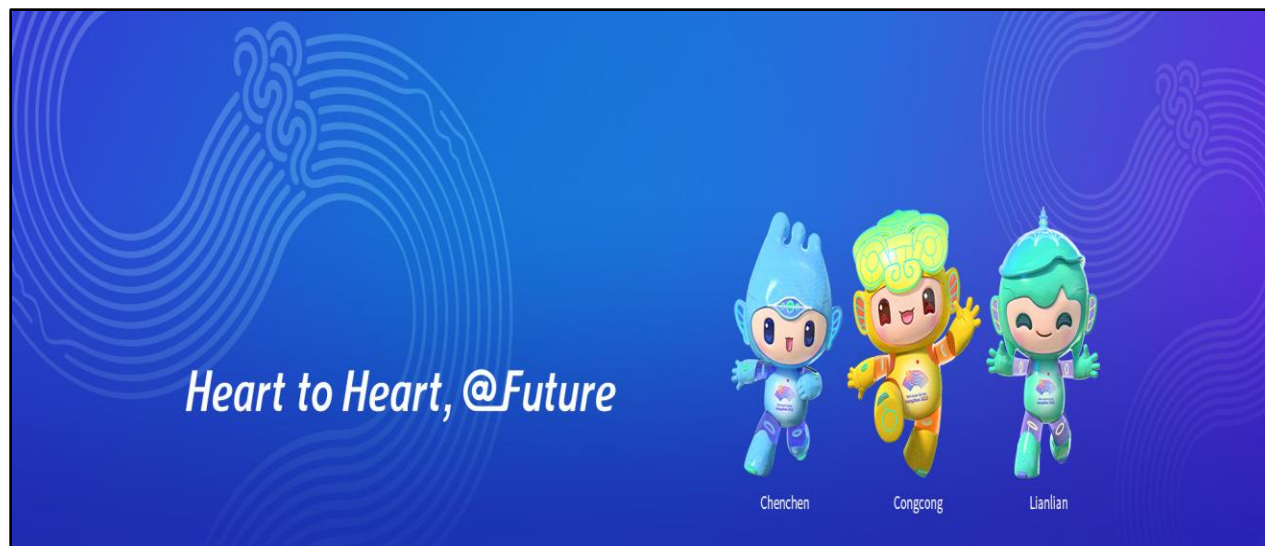
The 19th Asian Games are set to be held in Hangzhou, China, from September 23 to October 08, 2023. Earlier, these games were scheduled to be held from September 10 to 25, 2022, but were postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic cases rising in China.<sup>1</sup> With over 12,000 athletes from 45 countries and regions competing in 40 sports, 61 disciplines, and 481 events, the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games will be the largest in history.



The Hangzhou Asian Games will mark the third time that China has hosted the Asiad, following Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou in 2010.

<sup>1</sup> <https://ocasia.org/news/2987-oca-press-release-on-hangzhou-asian-games-2022-and-shantou-asian-youth-games-2021.html>

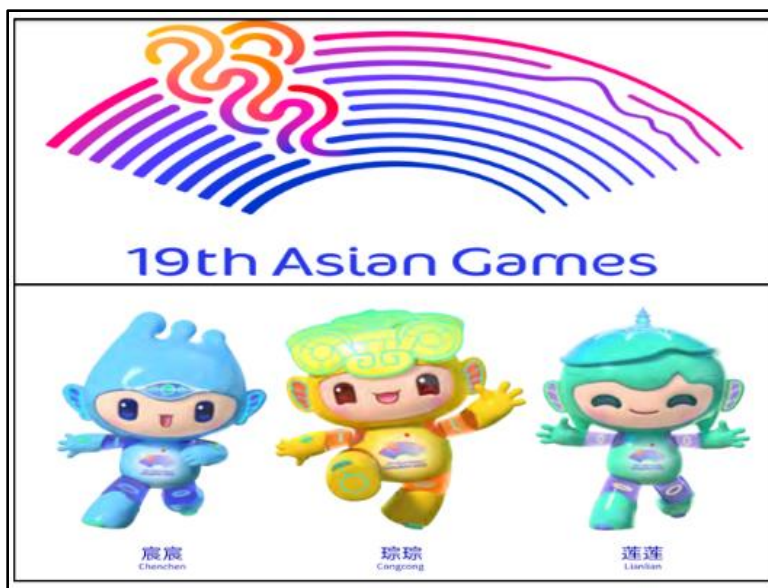
“Heart to Heart, @Future” is the slogan for the Games. The unique nature of this slogan is in keeping with Hangzhou’s status as a city of Internet. The message to the world is that people from different countries and regions can achieve a deeper understanding on the grand stage that is the Asian Games.



The aim is also to celebrate unity, progress, harmony, and the shared prosperity of the **Olympic Council of Asia** (OCA) Family, and motivate athletes to be confident, upbeat, and undaunted by challenges. In keeping with the Olympic motto of “**Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together**”, the slogan also conveys the wish to create a better future and forge a community with a shared future for Asia and mankind.<sup>2</sup>

“**Tides Surging**” is the official name of the Emblem. It represents the Qiantang River in Hangzhou, one of the three largest river tidal bores in the world.

The three mascots of Hangzhou 2022 are *Congcong*, *Chenchen*, and *Lianlian*. They represent the three World Heritage Sites that are located in Hangzhou - the Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City, the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, and the West Lake.



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.asia-shooting.org/2023/03/19th-asian-games-2023-technical-handbook-available-on-website/>

## INDIAN CONTINGENT FOR THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES

India is sending a contingent of 921 people, including 655 athletes and 260 coaches and support staff to take part in the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. The total number of sporting events in which India is participating this year is 39. The largest contingent will be in athletics with 68 participants.

At the last edition of the Asian Games in Jakarta in 2018, India sent a contingent of 572 athletes to compete in 36 sports where India returned with the highest-ever 70 medals, including 16 Golds.<sup>3</sup>



In an informal interaction with athletes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games on August 28, 2023, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Singh at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports in Patiala said, *"For the past few years, India has done exceptionally well in all sports. Today our sportspersons are bringing laurels to India on the world stage. I have full faith that India will do exceptionally well in the medal tally in the upcoming Asian Games also."*

The Minister's engagement with the athletes infused new energy and determination into their preparations, as they strive to make the nation proud.<sup>4</sup>

To see the detailed list of Indian athletes who have qualified for the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games, click [HERE](#).

<sup>3</sup> <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1952159>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1953044>

## ESPORTS AT ASIAN GAMES 2023, INDIA NAMES 15-MEMBER TEAM

Esports is set to make its debut as a medal event at the Asian Games, with medals earned by participants contributing to the overall medal count. Competitors will engage in seven distinct events:

- i. Arena of Valor Asian Games Version
- ii. Dota 2
- iii. Dream Three Kingdoms 2
- iv. FIFA Online 4
- v. League of Legends
- vi. PUBG Mobile Asian Games Version
- vii. Street Fighter V: Champion Edition.



However, India will only be represented in four of these events: Dota 2, FIFA Online 4, League of Legends, and Street Fighter V: Champion Edition. It's noteworthy that Arena of Valor and PUBG Mobile Asian Games Version are prohibited in India, and Dream Three Kingdoms 2 is not accessible in the country.<sup>5</sup>

India has named a 15-member **esports** team to compete at the **Asian Games 2023**, which goes like this:

**FIFA Online 4:** Charanjot Singh and Karman Singh Tikka

**Street Fighter V:** Champion Edition: Mayank Prajapati and Ayan Biswas

**League of Legends:** Akshaj Shenoy (captain), Samarth Arvind Trivedi, Mihir Ranjan, Aditya Selvaraj, Aakash Shandilya and Sanindhya Malik

**DOTA 2:** Darshan Bata (captain), Krish Gupta, Abhishek Yadav, Ketan Goyal and Shubham Goli

<sup>5</sup> <https://olympics.com/en/news/asian-games-2022-esports-india-squad-team>

## ASIAN GAMES - FROM INCEPTION TO FUTURE

The Second World War had ended and Asia experienced a new awakening. The collapse of colonialism generated an upsurge and thrust for freedom, friendship, and fraternity among the peoples of Asia. The world was in a mess and many prominent Asian leaders who had, for years, waged a determined struggle against the colonial despots, got together among themselves to work for a new world order based on mutual respect and peaceful co-existence. This time, however, the spotlight was fixed on youth—the leaders of tomorrow and what better way to symbolise the spirit of youth than sport—an activity that brings out the best in a human being, who competes, not only for the honour of his country but also for the Glory of Sport. It happened that about this time, the Asian Relations Conference took place in New Delhi. An attempt was made to invoke the cooperation of other Asian leaders in the new sports venture. The response was positive and immediate and this marked the birth of the Asian Games movement which today is the greatest festival of sport next to the Olympics.<sup>6</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Asian Games 1951



*Maharaja Yadavendra Singh requesting the president, Dr. Rajendra Prasad to declare open the first Asian Games 1951*

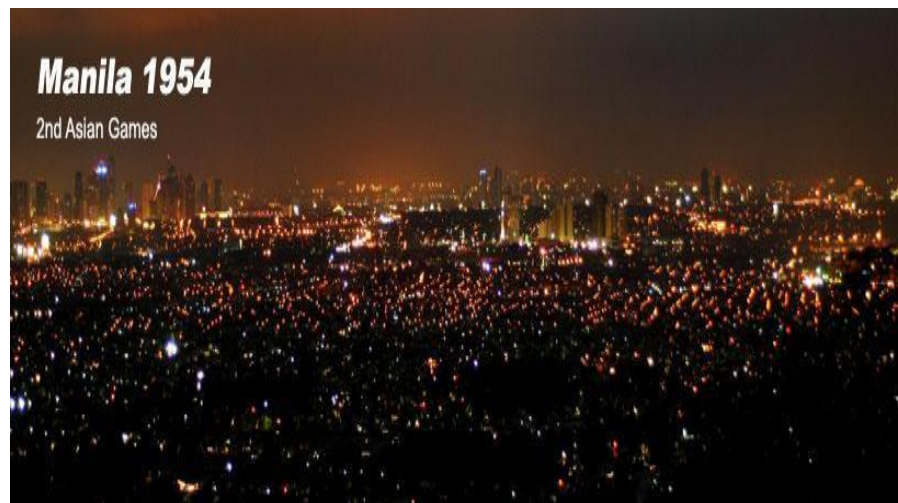
In the year 1949, the **Asian Games Federation** was inaugurated in **New Delhi** where the first Asian Games were held in 1951.

The second rendition was organised three years later in **Manila**, Philippines, in 1954 with the ensuing Games held once every four years except the current 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games, which was postponed by a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nine countries have hosted the Asian Games so far, which is recognised as the world's second-largest multi-sport competition after the **Olympic Games**.

<sup>6</sup> <https://yas.nic.in/sites/default/files/3881395440.pdf>



The second edition of the Asian Games in Manila in May 1954, were formally opened by Philippines President Ramon Magsaysay at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. A total of 970 athletes from 19 National Olympic Committees competed in eight sports.<sup>7</sup>



In 1981, the **Asian Games Federation** was renamed as the **Olympic Council of Asia** to strengthen its association with the **International Olympic Committee**, relocating its base from India to **Kuwait** where it currently resides.

The ninth edition of the Asian Games was held again in New Delhi in November and December 1982. This marked a return to New Delhi, host of the inaugural edition of the Games in 1951. New Delhi thus joined Bangkok as the only cities to host multiple editions of the Asian Games.

The 1982 edition was the first Asian Games to be backed by the Olympic Council of Asia. The



<sup>7</sup> <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1059784/history-of-asian-games#manila-1954>

Asian Games Federation, under whose jurisdiction the first eight Asian Games had been held, had been dissolved.

#### INDIA AT ASIAN GAMES

India has consistently been a strong contender in the **Asian Games** since its inception in 1951. Having taken part in every edition of this quadrennial event, India played a vital role in its formation and had the honor of hosting the inaugural edition in New Delhi.

#### INDIA'S MEDAL TALLY IN EACH EDITION

India has won **672 medals** at the Asian Games since the inaugural edition in 1951. During the Asian Games in 1951, India secured an impressive total of 51 medals, consisting of 15 gold, 16 silver, and 20 bronze medals, positioning India in second place overall, trailing only behind Japan, who claimed 60 medals. To this day, this achievement remains India's best performance in the history of the continental Games.

Edition	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total medals	Rank
New Delhi 1951	15	16	20	51	2
Manila 1954	5	4	8	17	5
Tokyo 1958	5	4	4	13	7
Jakarta 1962	10	13	10	33	3
Bangkok 1966	7	3	11	21	5
Bangkok 1970	6	9	10	25	5
Tehran 1974	4	12	12	28	7
Bangkok 1978	11	11	6	28	6
New Delhi 1982	13	19	25	57	5
Seoul 1986	5	9	23	37	5
Beijing 1990	1	8	14	23	11
Hiroshima 1994	4	3	16	23	8
Bangkok 1998	7	11	17	35	9
Busan 2002	11	12	13	36	7
Doha 2006	10	17	26	53	8
Guangzhou 2010	14	17	34	65	6
Incheon 2014	11	10	36	57	8
Jakarta 2018	16	23	31	70	8

India achieved its **highest medal count** at the Asian Games in 2018, held in Jakarta. During this event, India secured a remarkable total of 70 medals, setting a new record. Notably, athletics emerged as the most successful sport, contributing to 20 of these medals.

At the Asian Games 2018, **Neeraj Chopra** made history by becoming the first Indian to clinch a gold medal in the javelin throw discipline. Additionally, **Dutee Chand** achieved a significant milestone by winning India's first medal in the women's 100m event since PT Usha's silver medal in 1982.

#### ASIAN GAMES AHEAD

What started out as an effort featuring six sports and 57 events contested by 11 countries in New Delhi more than seven decades ago, now has grown into a mammoth Games arena featuring 40 sports, 481 events, and 41 countries in Hangzhou opening on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023. Only seven countries - **India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore , and Thailand** - have appeared at every edition of the Games so far.

The next and 20th Games in 2026 will be held in Japan in **Aichi-Nagoya** (19 September - 4 October) followed by a Middle Eastern swing through **Doha** in 2030 and **Riyadh** in 2034.<sup>8</sup>

#### References:

- PIB Press Release on [Union Minister of Youth Affairs interacts with Asian games bound athletes](#) dated August 28, 2023.
- PIB Press Release on [Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports sanctions 634 athletes to take part in Asian Games](#) dated August 25, 2023.
- <https://newsonair.gov.in/News?title=22-new-athletes-added-to-updated-contingent-list-for-19th-Asian-Games&id=467805>
- <https://www.asia-shooting.org/2023/03/19th-asian-games-2023-technical-handbook-available-on-website/>
- <https://www.hangzhou2022.cn/En/presscenter/>
- <https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2023/aug/doc2023825245401.pdf>

#### Twitter links:

- <https://x.com/PMOIndia/status/1622143992732454912?s=20>
- [https://twitter.com/search?q=india+at+asian+games+2022&ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Esearch](https://twitter.com/search?q=india+at+asian+games+2022&ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Esearch)

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<sup>8</sup> <https://olympics.com/en/news/hangzhou-asian-games-2023-history>