

## *Ab ki Baar Sau Paar*

### ***Analysis of India's performance at 2022 Asian Games:***

***“Ab ki Baar Sau Paar”*** was the clarion call and mission for India at the 2022 Asian Games. It was a highly ambitious target but due to the extraordinary performance of our athletes across several disciplines, not only did India cross the 100 medal mark for the very first time but did so with a comfortable margin. Crossing 100 medals and finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place behind China, Japan and South Korea only reinforces growth as a sports power under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Given below are a few notable talking points from India's historic Asian Games campaign.

1. This is India's best performance medal-wise in an Asian Games by some distance. India's previous best was 70 medals in 2018. Also in terms of gold medals, India has overcome their previous highest tally by some distance, it was 16 in 2018.
  
2. This is only the second time that India has finished fourth or higher at an Asian Games. The only previous occasion was 1962 where they finished 3rd, however it must be remembered that China did not participate in that Asiad.
  
3. 2022 is also India's first time in the top 5 of the medal tally since 1986. However in recent Asian Games, the benchmark to what constitutes a top 5 finish is several notches higher than what it would have been in the 1980s. To enter the top five, a country on an average over the past 3-4 Asiad has to win at least 18-20 golds. Therefore India would have had to anyway perform better than they have in any previous Asiad to even consider entering the top 5. Eventually due to their stupendous performance, they not only entered the top 5 but finished fourth and were six golds ahead of 5<sup>th</sup> placed Uzbekistan.

#### **India in Asian Games 1990-2006**

Year	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Rank
1990	1	8	14	23	11
1994	4	3	16	23	8
1998	7	11	17	35	9
2002	11	12	13	36	7
2006	10	17	26	53	8

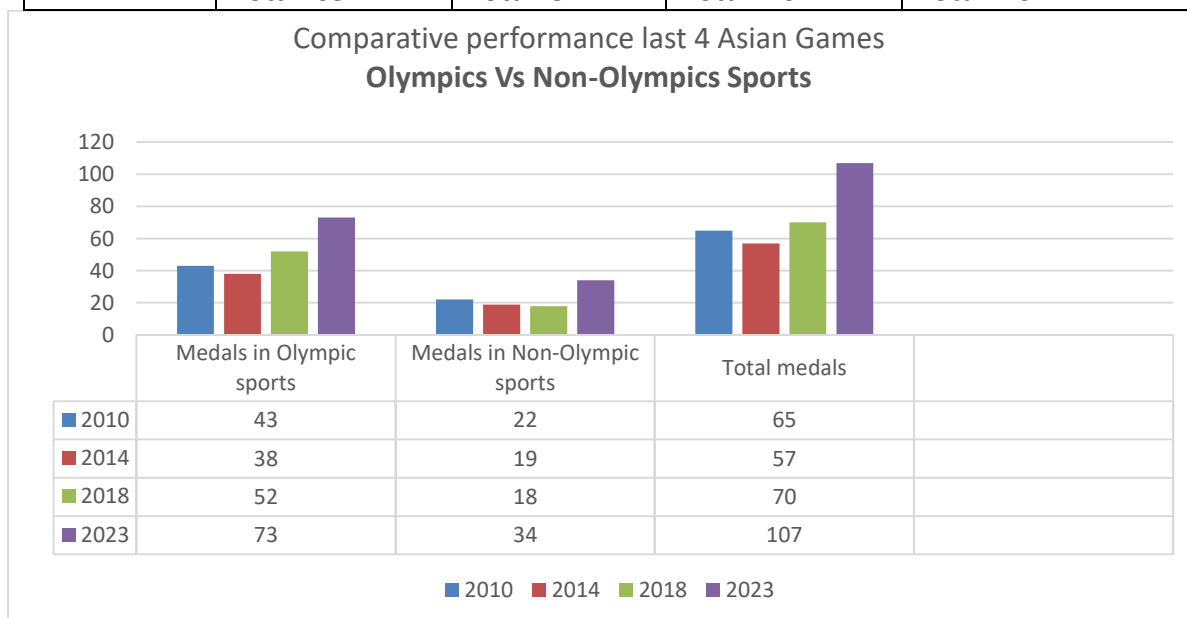


4. The Asian Games has historically comprised a number of sports and events which are not part of the Olympic program. India's excellent performance at the 2022 Asiad rested on their tremendous performance in some of these sports/disciplines. 5 golds in Shooting Team events (male and female), 5 golds in Compound Archery and 2 each in Squash, Cricket and Kabaddi contributed to India's gold medal haul from disciplines not featuring in the Olympics. If we take into consideration only gold medals, then India's performance in the 2018 Asiad was better than the 2022 Asiad if we consider only those disciplines that feature in the subsequent Olympics (2021 & 2024).
  
5. In 2018 if we consider only Olympic disciplines, India would have won 14 golds. However, this criterion applies not just to India but every country and though India's gold medal haul is less than 2018, their relative performance when you cancel non-Olympic medals from other countries ranking between 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> is not impacted. For example, in 2018, Indonesia who finished 4<sup>th</sup> while hosting the Asiad will fall below India in the medal table as of their 31 gold medals, 14 came from Pencak Silat. The same applies for Uzbekistan in Kurash over the last two Asiards, which is also a non-Olympic sport. So from the perspective of winning a horde of medals in non-Olympic sports/disciplines, the same criteria applies for every country and not just India.

### India comparative performance Asian Games 2010-2022

#### Olympics Vs Non-Olympics Sports

	2010	2014	2018	2022 (2023)
Medals won in Olympic sports in the same cycle	Gold: 11, Silver: 12, Bronze: 20,	Gold: 7, Silver: 6, Bronze: 25,	Gold: 15, Silver: 18, Bronze: 19,	Gold: 12, Silver: 29, Bronze: 32,
	<b>Total: 43</b>	<b>Total: 38</b>	<b>Total: 52</b>	<b>Total: 73</b>
Medals won in Non-Olympic sports which will not feature in the same cycle	Gold: 3, Silver: 5, Bronze: 14,	Gold: 4, Silver: 3, Bronze: 12,	Gold: 1, Silver: 5, Bronze: 12,	Gold: 16, Silver: 9, Bronze: 9,
	<b>Total: 22</b>	<b>Total: 19</b>	<b>Total: 18</b>	<b>Total: 34</b>
Overall medals	Gold: 14, Silver: 17, Bronze: 34,	Gold: 11, Silver: 9, Bronze: 37,	Gold: 16, Silver: 23, Bronze: 31,	Gold: 28, Silver: 38, Bronze: 41,
	<b>Total: 65</b>	<b>Total: 57</b>	<b>Total: 70</b>	<b>Total: 107</b>



6. From the perspective of total medals won, while there will be criticism that will be harped on the medals won in those sports/disciplines which do not feature in the Olympics, India has still won 73 medals in only Olympic disciplines. This is still higher

than any previous medal haul that India has achieved in the Asian Games irrespective of whether the Games have Olympic or Non-Olympic sports and disciplines. This in itself is enough to suggest that the 2022 Asian Games are India's best performance ever.

7. While the total medals won by India that is 107 are an incredible feat given where India stood in the early 1990s, it is even more impressive that they have won 28 gold medals and secured a fourth place finish. Once again how India performed in certain sports/disciplines which may not be a part of the Olympic cycle would have been crucial to take us there. In 2018, India returned without gold in Kabaddi, Hockey, Compound Archery and Squash. Turn to 2023, India returned with 11 gold medals from these four sports. It can be easily envisaged the huge impact not winning a single gold medal in these four sports in 2018 had on our position in the medal table. The difference between India in 8<sup>th</sup> and Uzbekistan at 5<sup>th</sup> in 2018 was four gold medals. It goes on to show that if India is able to focus on a few selected sports, it can make a massive difference to their position in the medal standings.
8. Finishing fourth in the Asian Games behind China, Japan and South Korea is a definite indication that India is no longer just an emerging sports nation. India has for the last few editions of the Commonwealth Games been able to prove that they are the best behind Australia and England, even if they didn't finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2022 edition. There are of course powerhouses like the three Asian countries and Australia and England when it comes to the CWG. India may not be in a position to catch up with these nations but if they can show that they can be the best after them, then that is in itself a huge statement.
9. India has over their entire Olympic history, won medals in eight sports. There have also been fourth place finishes in Golf and Gymnastics as well. Going into the 2024 Olympics, it is likely that India will be focussing on their core sports like Shooting, Wrestling, Boxing, Weightlifting, Badminton, Athletics and Hockey to win medals. Much like Dipa Karmakar in Gymnastics in 2016 and Aditi Ashok in Golf in 2021, there could be a chance of winning a medal from outside these core sports. India's highest ever medal tally in an Olympics is 7 medals achieved at the Tokyo Olympics.
10. Winning gold at the Olympics is amongst the hardest things, there have been team golds in Hockey but in individual sports, two golds in our history. Ranking in the medal table is determined not by total medals but by ranking. The former Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said that he expects India to finish in the top 10 by the 2028 Olympics. Over the last few Olympics, the benchmark for top 10 is 10 golds and 35-



40 medals. It would in the present circumstances be more realistic for India to aim for a top 20 finish where the average over the last 3-4 Olympics has been around 4 golds and 10-12 medals overall. Even if India specialises in around 7-8 sports, the mark of 10-12 medals seems achievable by the 2024 Olympics but even then India needs to make sure half of these medals are first place finishes. Once India can enter the top 20, then can a conversation about top 10 can begin. That said in present circumstances where India specialises in 7-8 sports when it comes to Olympic level competition, for the next Olympic cycle it would be better if India can set itself a target of Top 20 and then look at Top 10 in the 2028 and 2032 Olympics. India can definitely reach the top 10 by winning 10-12 gold medals and 35-40 medals overall, however to get there India needs to find a way of succeeding in much more than just 7-8 sports.

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