

Sports Authority of India

Two Equestrian silver medals boost Indian tally in Jakarta

- Archery team enters final
- Saina, Sindhu in semi-final

Jakarta/ Palembang, Aug 26: The Indian men's equestrian squad picked two silver medals and they were the first since the 1982 Asian Games as India's tally went up further on Sunday at the Asian Games.

India's tally is now seven gold, seven silver and 17 bronze medals.

EQUESTRIAN - Historic medal for first since 1982; Mirza and team win silver each

India's Fouaad Mirza became the first Indian to win an individual medal in the equestrian event since the 1982 Asian Games, when he picked the silver medal in Eventing competition.

Mirza finished second behind Yoshiaki Oiwa while China's Alex Tian Hua was third. Mirza had earlier topped the dressage and cross-country qualifiers in the three-day event.

Mirza's effort also helped India take the silver in the team event of the same competition as Japan with Takayuki Yumira, Kenta Hiranaga, Ryuzo Kitajima and Yoshiaki Oiwa completed a golden double. The Indian foursome was Rakesh Kumar, Ashish Malik, Jitender Singh and Mirza. Thailand were third.

Son of an equine vet, Dr. Hasneyn Mirza, the younger Mirza has been training in Germany and with his mount, Seigneur Medicott, he also had other successes in UK and Germany, where he has been training.

India's previous Equestrian medals have included three gold, but the last individual medal was in 1982 when Raghubir Singh topped in New Delhi leading an Indian sweep.

What constitutes Eventing in Equestrian sports?

Eventing is a three-day test of skill and endurance of both the horse and the rider and it constitutes Dressage, Cross Country and Show Jumping.

Dressage is seen as the most artistic of the equestrian sports. It opens with Eventing on the first of the three days. They are judged on precise movements. The second day is often the toughest, as it has the cross country where the participants race through a distance negotiating obstacles including fences and water hazards. The third and final day has the show jumping, where the rider and the horse go through a series of obstacles inside a 'pre-set course' and have a time limit. The horse is required to jump and land cleanly and positions are based on jumps, falls, time penalties and a horse's refusal to jump.

BADMINTON – Saina and Sindhu in semi-finals

Saina Nehwal assured herself of her first individual Asian Games medal, as she outlasted fourth seed Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon 21-18, 21-16 to enter the semi-finals of the women's singles. Ratchanok is a former World Champion from 2013 as well as being a former World No 1.

Meanwhile, PV Sindhu also advanced to the semifinals after being taken to three games by Nitchaon Jindapol 21-11, 16-21, 21-14 in just over an hour.

ARCHERY: - Indian women compound archers reach final

Indian archers stormed into the final of the compound women's team event at the 2018 Asian Games here on Sunday. Registering their second win of the day, the Indian team comprising Muskan Kirar, Madhumita Kumari and Jyothi Surekha Vennam defeated Taipei's Liju Chen, Yihsuan Chen and Mingching Lin 225-222 in the semis.

Despite losing the two sets at 55-58 and 55-57, the Indians made a brilliant comeback in the last two sets to win them 57-55 and 58-52.

Earlier in the quarters, the Indians had pipped Indonesia's Sri Ranti, Yurike Nina Pereira and Dellie Threesyadinda 229-224.

The Indians lost the first set 56-57 before winning the second at 58-56. They again went down in the third set 56-57 but a brilliant performance in the fourth and final set saw them win the clash after clinching the fourth set 59-54.

Indian men beat Philippines 227-226 to enter the semi-finals. Earlier they beat Qatar 227-213. The Indian team has Rajat Chauhan, Aman Saini and Abhishek Verma.

ATHLETICS – Anu and Murmu qualify for 400m hurdles final

In Women's 400m hurdles India's Anu Raghavan finishes third in her heat of the women's 400m hurdles heats with a timing of 56.77 seconds. She qualifies to the final.

Anu Raghavan – silver medallist at Asian Championships in 2017 in Bhubaneshwar. As one of the two fastest losers, Jauna Murmu (59.20s) also qualified for the final.