



5TH ASIAN INDOOR & MARTIAL ARTS GAMES **2017**

“Indian Tennis team emerges victorious at the 5th AIMAG”

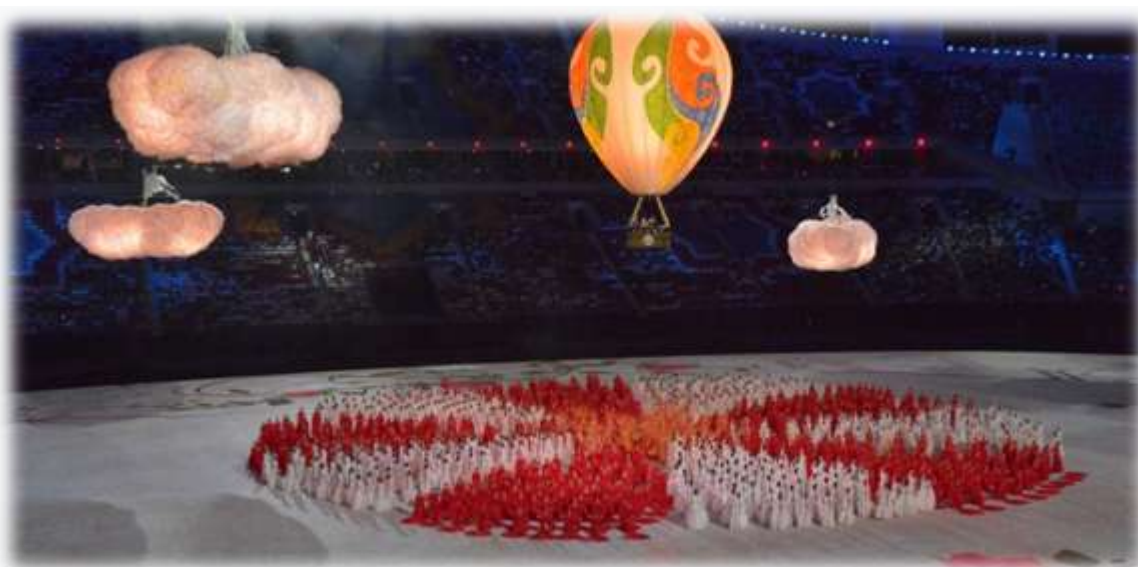
ABOUT THE GAMES:

The **2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games**, which is also counted as the 5th Asian Indoor Games, recently were held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in 2017. Ashgabat, first in the former Soviet Central Asian region, won the right to host the Asian Indoor Games.

With the emerging need to have a wide variety of sports presented on a global platform within the Asian continent, the Olympic Council of Asia organised the first Asian Indoor Games in Bangkok, Thailand back in 2005. With the success of Asian Indoor Games, it became a nursery to test new and emerging sports.

While the Asian Indoor Games flourished, the Asian Martial Arts Games came to the fore too. The Asian Indoor Games aka AIG (Organised thrice in 2005, 2007, 2009) were held every alternate year while the Asian Martial Arts Games or AMAG were held only once in 2009, were supposed to get conducted every four years. For the first time, the Olympic Council of Asia’s decision to merge the two consequently resulted in the very first Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games being held in 2013 in Incheon, South Korea thus creating the 2nd largest multi-sports events in Asia after Asian Games.

OPENING CEREMONY



The **2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games opening ceremony** took place on Sunday, 17 September 2017. The opening ceremony were held at the newly built Olympic Stadium in Ashgabat.

PARTICIPATING NATIONS

All 45 member countries of the Olympic Council of Asia were invited to compete at these Games. For the first time in the Asian Games are attended by 17 Oceania National Olympic Committees also.

SPORTS

A total of 21 sports are represented for the Indoor and Martial Arts Games: cycling, equestrian, taekwondo, weightlifting and wrestling, basketball, athletics, football, swimming and tennis) and eleven non-Olympic sports (bowling, chess, cue sports, dance sport, ju-jitsu, kickboxing, kurash, muaythai, sambo, belt wrestling and traditional wrestling)

INDIAN TENNIS CONTINGENT:

A Team comprises of eight players, two Coaches and one Physiotherapist represented India in the AIMAG 2107, out of a total 206 strong Indian contingent.

SL. NO	NAME	STATUS
1	SumitNagal	Player
2	Vishnu Vardhan	Player
3	Vijay SundarPrasanth	Player
4	Sidharth Rawat	Player
5	Ankita Raina	Player
6	PrarthanaThombare	Player
7	Riya Bhatia	Player
8	Dhruthi Venugopal	Player
9	Ashutosh Singh	Coach/ Captain
10	Ankita Bhambri	Coach/ Captain
11	Anand Kumar	Physiotherapist

RESULTS OF TENNIS EVENTS:



Men's Singles

Gold Medal - SumitNagal

Silver Medal – Vijay Sundar Prashanth Natarajan



Men's Doubles

Gold Medal – Vishnu Vardhan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth Natarajan



Women's Doubles

Silver Medal – Ankita Raina & Prarthana Thombare



Mixed Doubles

Silver Medal – Vishnu Vardhan & Prarthana Thombare

Overall, Indian tennis team clinched 2 Gold, 3 Silver. India finished as Rank no. 1 in the Indoor Tennis event followed by Thailand and Indonesia.

Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan Dr. T V Nagendra Prasad presented medals to the Men's singles and Women's Doubles medalists. Mr Prasad also hosted a dinner for the entire Indian Tennis team . Mr Prasad was also a keen spectator, and came daily to watch and support the Indian players, which motivated them a lot.

MEDAL COUNTS AT THE GAMES

Host Turkmenistan was on top with an intimidating collection of 245 medals, including 89 gold and 70 silver. China followed with 97 medals including 42 gold, and Iran was in the third spot with 118 medals including 36 gold.

India secured 11th overall in the medals table with 9 gold, 12 silver and 19 bronze medals.

Tennis team did a proud to all, as out of the total 40 medals secured by India in the games, 5 medals (1/8th of the total count) were secured in Tennis. To be precise almost 25% ,of the total gold medals for India, were secured by Tennis players (2 out of 9 gold).

CLOSING CEREMONY



WELCOME BACK HOME

The Indian team was given a grand welcome home , courtesy Punjab Tennis Association. The office bearers and dignitaries from the Punjab Tennis , welcomed the entire team of Indian Tennis Players and also hosted lunch for them. It was a welcome respite for the entire team, to finally have a taste of Indian food after almost 2 weeks. All the players were picked from Amritsar airport upon their arrival and transferred to hotel, where all the players were welcomed with traditional garland, which was followed by lunch.

Chef de Mission of Indian Contingent for the Games and Ms Manpreet Kandhari, Technical Delegate for Tennis at the Games , were also welcomed.

This entire welcome back home was planned by Mr Dinesh Arora, Hon. Secretary of the Punjab Tennis Association, who incidentally was also part of 3 member Jury of Appeal at the Asian Indoor Games in Ashgabat.

The entire team was thankful to Mr. Arora and the Punjab Tennis Association Team for being so considerate, and welcoming the players with open heart.

