

Sports Authority of India

A productive morning for Indians in rowing and tennis

- Historic gold medal for rowing quarter in Quadruple Sculls
- Dushyant wins bronze in lightweight singles scull
- Rohit and Bhagwan add a bronze in lightweight doubles scull
- Bopanna-Sharan claim men's doubles gold
- Heena Sidhu takes bronze in 10m Air Pistol

Jakarta/ Palembang, August 24: The Indian rowers created history by winning a gold in men's Quadruple Sculls event on the sixth day of the 2018 Asian Games. The Indian team comprising Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh clocked a creditable time of 6:17:13 to clinch the coveted gold medal. This was India's first gold in rowing in this edition of the Asian Games and the fifth overall.

With one gold and two bronze today, the Indian rowers opened their account on the medal standings.

The best performance came from the quartet comprising Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh who brought India's its first gold medal outside of shooting and wrestling in the 2018 Asian Games.

The Indians finished a good distance ahead of the hosts, Indonesia who timed 6:20.58 for the silver medal while Thailand took the bronze with a time of 6:22.41.

"Yesterday we had a bad day but (as) soldiers we never give up. I told my teammates that we will go for the gold and we will give it all. It was about karo ya maro (do or die). And we did it," Sawarn Singh, senior most member of the gold-winning quadruple sculls team, said.

The quadruple sculls gold was only India's second gold medal in rowing at the Asian Games. Bajrang Lal Takhar had won the first in the men's singles event in 2010.

Earlier, it was Dushyant who started the day with a third-place finish in lightweight single sculls. Dushyant finished third to clinch the first medal for India on day 6 with a timing of 7:18:76. Korea's Hyunsu Park with a timing of 7.12.86 and Hong Kong's Chun Gun Chiu with a timing of 7.14.16 won gold and silver respectively in the lightweight single sculls event at the JSC Lake.

Dushyant, who began rowing in 2012 at an army training camp in Roorkee, had won a bronze in the last edition of the Games, too, in Incheon.

The team of Rohit Kumar and Bhagwan Singh then added another bronze in the tally as they finished third in the men's Lightweight Double Sculls final. Rohit and Bhagwan timed 7:04.61. Japan's Miyaura Masayuki and Takeda Masahiro won the gold with a timing of 7:01.70 while Koreans Kim Byunghoon and Lee Minhyuk (7:03.22) bagged silver.

Tennis – Bopanna and Divij claim gold in men's doubles

Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan clinched the first gold in tennis at these Asian Games . They beat the Kazakhstan pair of Aleksandr Bublik and Denis Yevseyev in 6-3, 6-4 win in just 52 minutes.

The tennis gold was India's sixth Gold and 22nd medal in the competition.

The Indians raced to a 4-1 lead breaking Bublik and Yevseyev at the very first opportunity they got. The top seeds wrapped up the set with a 5-3 lead and Bopanna's serve played a key role.

The Kazakhs were erratic and the Indians pounced on it. Bopanna and Sharan showed great combination and played superbly.

In the second set the teams were at 3-3 before Bopanna and Sharan clinched the all-important break and the top seeds held serve to grab a 5-3 lead. The Kazakhs held once more, but the Indians wrapped up in the next game for a 6-3, 6-4.

Bopanna and Sharan had reached the final after beating Japan's Uesugi K and Shimabukuro S 4-6, 6-3, 10-8 on Thursday in a nervy tie-breaker.

This was the fifth successive time that an Indian men's doubles pair had reached the Asian Games final. Overall, India have now reached six finals in seven Games since 1994 and won gold five times.

The earlier pairs that won men's doubles tennis gold for India have been: Gaurav Natekar and Leander Paes (1994, Hiroshima); Mahesh Bhupathi/Leander Paes (2002, Busan), Bhupathi/ Paes (2006, Doha), and Somdev Devvarman/Sanam Singh (2010, Guangzhou).

In 2014, Saketh Myneni and Sanam lost the final to Koreans, Chung Hyeon and Lim Yong-kyu. Also last time in Incheon, Sharan won a bronze in men's doubles in 2014 alongside Yuki Bhambri.

India is set to win another medal in tennis after Prajnesh Gunneswaran beat Korea's Soonwoo Kwon 6(2)-7, 6-4, 7-6(8) on Thursday to enter the semifinals of Tennis Men's Singles. Meanwhile, Ankita Raina had to settle for a Bronze medal on Thursday after she lost 4-6, 6(6)-7 after a tough tie-breaker against China's Zhang Shuai.

Shooting - Bronze medal from Sidhu

Heena Sidhu added to the medals tally at the Asian Games 2018 with a bronze medal in 10m Air pistol. The 28-year old shooter worked her way up after a poor start in the first. She made the final in the seventh position, while young 16-year-old Manu Bhaker was third.

In the final, close to elimination, Heena, a CWG gold-medal winner bounced back with a 10.6 and a 10.3 in the 4th series to climb up to the 4th position. She maintained that tempo to secure a Bronze for herself. She needed 10.2 to get to silver, but managed a 9.6 and was eliminated. It was India's ninth medal in shooting.

Sidhu's fellow shooter 16-year-old Manu Bhaker finished fifth in the final. China's Wang Qian took the gold, while Korea's Kim Minjung grabbed the silver ahead of Sidhu.