## **Press Release**

## Felicitation Ceremony for the 17th Asian Games Medallist

**13th October, New Delhi:** Sh. Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs & Sports felicitated the medal winners of the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Incheon, today.

India finished with 11 gold, 10 silver and 36 bronze medals with the country bagging medals in disciplines like Kabaddi, Hockey Wushu, Judo and even Sailing among various other sports in the just concluded 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games.

As a matter of fact, India has shown major improvement in many disciplines since the Bangkok Asian Games 16 years ago. In 1998, India had won seven gold medals across five disciplines, while the 11 gold in Incheon came from nine disciplines including Squash, Women Boxing and Compound Archery winning the yellow medal for the country for the first time ever.

Even the medal winning percentage of women in the Indian contingent has gone up to 47.37 as against 30.77 in the last Asian Games (2010) as the women bagged 27 of the 57 medals India won in Incheon with women winning both the gold medals in track and field and one in boxing.

At the felicitation function, the Hon'ble Minister also handed over the cheques for Rs 20 lacs for gold medal winners, Rs 10 lacs for silver medallists and Rs 6 lacs for bronze winners as per the Union Government's policy of cash rewards for medallists in special events.

Speaking on the occasion Hon'ble Minister was determined to provide all the athletes with world class exposure and training facilities. He also added," this is just the beginning. I am in constant touch with various