

JULY 2023 - SEPTEMBER 2023

EDITION 10



ROWING INDIA

— 2023 —

NEWSLETTER



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members and friends of the Rowing family,

The period since the last newsletter has been momentous for our Federation.

We were totally focused on the preparation of our team for the 19th Asian Games, Hangzhou, China, which concluded on 27th September 2023 with a heart warming result for RFI, bagging five medals against the best in Asia. Our rowers bagged two Silvers and three Bronze medals winning accolades from one and all.

On behalf of the Rowing Federation of India, my congratulations to the entire team, Coaches and Support Staff for giving their best at Hangzhou.

The Rowing events took place prior to the start of the Asian Games and ours was among the first medals to come for India at the Games, which gave rowing the much needed publicity and recognition within the sporting World.

A new milestone was achieved by Indian Rowing, when the Para rowing team added a Silver lining to the Asian Para Games 2023 at Hangzhou, China by winning Silver in the Mixed Double Scull.

A special congratulations to K Narayana, Anita and coach Mohammad Azad for this path breaking achievement.

Hoping to see the para team bring us more glory in the coming years.



The Rowing year will end on 31st March 2024. In this short period, we have to fit in a Sub-Junior and Challenger Nationals at Hyderabad, Junior Nationals at Chandigarh and Senior Nationals at ARN, Pune.

We have just witnessed a thrilling National Games at Goa and seen Coastal Rowing making its debut in India much to the delight of one and all. This event will be covered in our next issue.

Looking forward to your wholehearted participation in our forthcoming events and meeting you all at the Nationals scheduled ahead.

Warmest regards,
Yours in Rowing!

**MRS RAJLAXMI SINGH DEO,
PRESIDENT,
ROWING FEDERATION OF INDIA**

PRIME MINISTER FELICITATES ROWERS OF THE ASIAN GAMES 2023

The Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, felicitated all the Asian Games 2023 participants at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on October 10. On this occasion, members of the Indian rowing team led by Olympian Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh presented the honourable PM with a miniature racing boat.

The Prime Minister assured all possible help to Indian athletes in their endeavour to achieve greater heights and expressed confidence that the country will better its Hangzhou performance in the next edition of the Asian Games.

“The athletes tried to give it their best shot. There was never a dearth of talent in India. The will to win was always there. They used to do well earlier as well, but there were a lot of hurdles which came in their way,” said the PM.

The PM said that the Asian Games haul was a good marker for the future of the sport in the country and added that the medal winners had opened “new avenues” which will motivate a whole “new generation”.

“Whatever event we competed in, we won medals. The canvas is growing, which is a good indication for India. You have opened new avenues, which will motivate the new generation. This (performance) will also give new motivation for the Paris Olympics (next year),” said the Prime Minister.



PRIME MINISTER FELICITATED ROWERS OF THE ASIAN GAMES 2023



MILESTONES FOR INDIAN ROWING

Indian Rowing team members, including players, coaches and staff, who won medals at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China, were felicitated by Shri Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Speaking at the felicitation ceremony, Shri Thakur congratulated the rowers for their success and said that they had made the nation proud. He also praised the coaches and staff for their hard work and dedication.

"The Indian rowing team has achieved great heights in recent years," Shri Thakur said. "Winning five medals at the Asian Games is a testament to their hard work and dedication. I am confident that the team will continue to excel in the future and bring more laurels to the country."

The felicitation ceremony was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Indian Olympic Association, and the Rowing Federation of India.



IMr. Rupam Karmakar, Chairman of the Rowing Federation of India's Umpiring Commission, was selected to officiate the highly anticipated rowing event at the Asian Games 2023, hosted in Hangzhou, China.



CELEBRATIONS BY THE FEDERATION

On the auspicious occasion of the 77th Independence Day of India, the esteemed President of the Rowing Federation of India (RFI), Mrs. Rajlaxmi Singh Deo, and the distinguished Former President, Mr. CP Singh Deo, graced the National Rowing Camp at the picturesque Hussain Sagar in Hyderabad with their presence. Their participation in this celebratory event not only exemplified their unwavering dedication to the sport of rowing but also underscores their profound patriotism and commitment to the nation.



In commemorating the 77th Independence Day at the National Rowing Camp, the rowers, officials, and esteemed guests paid homage to the legacy of freedom fighters and envisioned a future where Indian rowing stands tall on the global stage, a testament to the unwavering spirit of the nation. This event was not merely a celebration; it was a poignant reminder that the pursuit of excellence and the love for one's country are threads that bind the tapestry of India together.



The Rowing Federation of India marked its 47th Foundation Day on August 30, 2023. Since its inception in 1976, the RFI has played a pivotal role in promoting and nurturing the sport of rowing across the country. The RFI's commitment to fostering talent at the grassroots level and providing top-notch training facilities has been instrumental in shaping the careers of numerous rowers who have gone on to represent India with pride. The federation's unwavering support and guidance have been the cornerstone of the success of Indian rowers.



19TH ASIAN GAMES 2023, HANGZHOU CHINA

The Indian rowing contingent concluded their 2023 Asian Games campaign with an impressive tally of five medals - two Silver and three Bronze, equalling India's previous best performance in rowing at the Asian Games.

Arvind Singh and Arjun Lal Jat clinched a Silver in men's lightweight double sculls. The duo secured second place behind China.

In men's coxless pairs, Babu Lal Yadav and Lekh Ram claimed Bronze.

The men's coxed eight team, featuring Naresh Kulwaniya, Neetish Kumar, Charanjeet Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Bheem Singh, Punit Kumar, Ashish, and Dhananjay Pande, won Silver.

Jaswinder Singh, Bheem Singh, Punit Kumar, and Ashish secured Bronze in men's coxless fours.

The men's quadruple sculls team - Satnam Singh, Parminder Singh, Jakar Khan, and Sukhmeet Singh - completed the medal haul with a Bronze. This performance matches India's best-ever rowing medal count achieved in the 2010 Guangzhou Games. India's first rowing medal came in 1982 when the team secured a Bronze in men's coxed pair. In total, India's rowers have now won 28 medals at the Asian Games.

The Indian team consisted of 29 rowers who competed across 10 different events.



SILVER MEDAL- MEN'S LIGHT WEIGHT DOUBLE SCULLS



India's light weight double sculls pair of Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh rowed through the calm waters of the Beizhi river to claim the Silver medal in the Men's Light Weight Double Sculls event.

The result assumes greater significance when one considers that the pair's training took a beating after Arvind injured his lower back in the months leading up to the Asian Games.



The Indians started well and at the 500m mark and threatened to overtake the Chinese pair of Junjie Fan and Man Sun.

The Indian pair made it to the medal race after topping their repechage round with a time of 6:55.78 minutes. They had clocked 6:27.45 minutes for second place in Heat 1 to make the repechage.

SILVER MEDAL- MEN'S COXED EIGHTS TEAM



Indian rowers Neeraj, Naresh Kalwaniya, Neetish Kumar, Charanjeet Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Bheem Singh, Punit Kumar, and Ashis secured a remarkable second place in the Men's Coxed Eights final event India were third midway but a great effort in the second half helped them win silver.

Hailing Men's Coxed Eights team for winning silver medal at Asian Games 2022, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi praised the dazzling display of coordination, power and stamina by the team and wished them all the success in their future endeavours.

BRONZE MEDAL- MEN'S COXLESSS PAIRS



India's Babu Lal Yadav (bow) and Lekh Ram (stroke) won the Bronze medal in the Men's Coxless Pairs event.

We are very happy after securing the medal... I started rowing in 2021... We give credit to the Indian Army, coaches our family members and to the people of our country... I had goosebumps after seeing the Indian flag," said Babu Lal Yadav.



Lekh Ram also thanked his coaches after winning the medal. "I have no words to express my happiness. Our coaches put us through long hours of practice. I would like to attribute our success to the RFI, Indian army, our coaches, and family members," Lekh Ram said.

BRONZE MEDAL- MEN'S COXLESSS FOURS



The Indian Coxless Fours team of Jaswinder Singh, Bheem Singh, Punit Kumar and Ashish finished third behind Uzbekistan and China.

The Indian duo finished third with a timing of 6:50.41 seconds. Hong Kong China won gold with 6:44.20 seconds while Uzbekistan took silver with 6:48.11 seconds.

India finished first in men's Fours heats at the Asian Games 2023 and qualified directly to the final.

ASIAN GAMES BRONZE MEDAL- MEN'S QUADRUPLER SCULLS



India ended the rowing events with five medals as they claimed Bronze in the Men's Quadruple Sculls event.

In the quadruple sculls, the Indian team of Satnam Singh, Parminder Singh, Jakar Khan and Sukhmeet Singh didn't have the best of starts as they were fourth by the 500m mark. They would amp the intensity over the rest of the event and edge past Indonesia to claim the final medal spot.



Satnam Singh, who was a member of the bronze medal-winning team India in the Men's Quadruple Scull event, said that after finishing in the third position they will focus to win a gold medal next time.

BALRAJ PANWAR'S 4TH PLACE FINISH

The biggest surprise in India's rowing performance at the Asian Games was Balraj Panwar's unexpected 4th-place finish in Men's Single Sculls eveny.

The 24-year-old sepoy from Karnal, Haryana, took up rowing just two years ago on the advice of an Army coach who saw potential in his six-foot frame.

"Balraj's rapid progress over the past two years has truly shone. He excelled in the trials and now he's proven himself on the Asian stage," remarked Rajlaxmi Singh Deo, President of the Rowing Federation of India.



Image tweeted by @Media_SAI

GLIMPSES FROM THE ASIAN GAMES 2023



CELEBRATION FOR ASIAN GAMES MEDALLISTS



2023 WORLD ROWING CUP III, LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND

The 2023 World Rowing Cup III was held in Lucerne, Switzerland, from July 7-9. Nearly 700 athletes from 52 nations competed across 16 boat classes.

The event was the third and final event in the 2023 World Rowing Cup series, and it was the last major international racing opportunity for many nations before the 2023 World Rowing Championships in September.

India had sent a 21-member team at 2023 World Rowing Cup III, including 16 rowers and five coaching and staff members. India competed in across events in the tournament.



MEN'S SINGLE SCULLS

The Indian contingent proudly sent two highly skilled rowers to fiercely compete in the prestigious Men's Singles Sculls event at the World Rowing Cup III. Balraj Panwar finished in the second place, crossing the finish line with a timing of 7:10.46 seconds. Following closely behind, Salman Khan secured the fifth position with a timing of 7:17.25 seconds in the fiercely contested Final G.



MEN'S DOUBLE SCULLS

In the fiercely competitive Men's Doubles Sculls event, the dynamic duo of Satnam Singh and Parminder Singh ultimately secured a fifth-place finish in the intense Final C. Their synchronised efforts propelled them across the finish line with a notable timing of 6:29.67 seconds, showcasing their skills on the grand stage.

MEN'S PAIRS



Battling against stiff competition, Babu Lal and Lekh Ram secured a fourth-place finish in the fiercely contested Final D. Their combined efforts propelled them across the finish line in 6:42.35 seconds.



MEN'S PAIRS

Ankit Kasanya and Ashish Goliyan finished in the second place Final E. Together they clocked a timing of 6:54.25 seconds.



MEN'S FOURS

The Indian quartet of Jaswinder Singh, Punit Kumar, Bheem Singh and Ashish finished at the sixth spot in Final B in 6:07.17 seconds.

MEN'S LIGHT WEIGHT DOUBLE SCULLS <<<

Indian pair of Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh finished fourth with 6:38.68 seconds, while Ajay Tyagi and Ashish Phugat also finished fifth in Final D with a timing of 6:38.70 seconds.



6TH INDOOR NATIONAL ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 6th Indoor National Rowing Championships were held in Pune, Maharashtra between 10th and 14th August 2023. The venue of the competition was chosen as Boxing Hall, Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT-ADT), Rajbaug, Loni Kalbhor, off Solapur Road, Pune, Maharashtra-412201. The tournament saw massive turnaround across 19 events in the Senior Open & Lightweight Events, Junior Events and Sub-Junior Events. The event was graced by the attendance of Prof. Dr. Suraj Bhojar, Associate Director, Student Affairs, MIT Art, Design and Technology University, Pune. The Championships came to a close with some stunning results produced by the existing and emerging rowing talents of India.

The competitions were hosted by the Maharashtra Rowing Association on behalf of Rowing Federation of India. The Organizing Committee was chaired by Mr RR Deshpande, where the President of Jury was Indian Rowing Team's Head Coach Mr Ismail Baig, Of the 23 teams that participated, Haryana emerged as the table toppers with a total of 12 medals in their bag.



INDIAN PARA ROWERS AT WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2023

Two of India's best para rowers K Narayana and Anita represented India at the World Rowing Championships in Serbia between September 3 and September 9, 2023. The duo represented the nation in Para mixed doubles sculls event.

34-year-old Narayana hails from the Peapully village in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. He won two gold medals, in 2022 Senior National Championships and 2023 Senior National Championships, respectively. He also won two gold medals in 2022 Open Sprint National Rowing Championships and 2023 Open Sprint National Rowing Championships. Besides, he has also shone in international arena. In 2019 World Para Rowing Cup II, he won a bronze medal, followed by another bronze medal the same year in Asian Rowing Championships. His best outing turned out to be the 2022 Asian Rowing Virtual Indoor Championships where he won the gold medal. In the 2023 World Para Rowing Cup II, he bagged another bronze medal.

The 28-year-old Anita, hailing from Jhotwara in the Jaipur district of Rajasthan, started her rowing career in December 2022 at the ARN Pune. In no time, she has showed immense promise.

The duo went to Serbia with coaches Mohammad Azad (Uttar Pradesh) and Mamta Jena (Odisha). They were accompanied by Col Gaurav Dutt, the para commission member at World Rowing, as their Manager.

The duo displayed a spirited attempt and ended their competition finishing at the third place in Final B of the Para Mixed Double Sculls with a timing of 9:36.22 seconds.





www.indiarowing.com



fb/IndiaRowing



indiarowing



@IndiaRowing



Rowing Federation of India