



## South Asian Games 2016: India expected to extend its dominance

The Hindu, 05-02-2016



**Guwahati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared South Asian Games open today at the Indira Gandhi stadium, Sarurasajai, this evening. The event is being hosted for the first time in the North East of the country, the curtains to which will be brought down on February 16.**

**Mr. Modi welcomed SAARC countries and its players and said, "I welcome our friends from SAARC countries, let the spirit of Gurukul prevail for two weeks in Guwahati. Let SAG be an opportunity for SAARC to realise its potential."**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the 12th South Asian Games being held here are not just a sporting platform but also a "springboard for bringing peace and prosperity in the region through business".**

**"My vision for South Asia is the same as my vision for India," he said, adding, "Let us play with enthusiasm so that we would remember this even after it is over." He said that the event signifies three Ts: Teamwork, Togetherness and Talent.**

**The 12th South Asian Games are launched with pomp and grandeur at the Indira Gandhi stadium, Sarurasajai, on Friday evening. The opening ceremony was graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the Chief Guest, the focus will once again remain on yet another dominant showing by the Indian team against the regional minnows.**

**For conduct of the games an organizing committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, N. Ramachandran, President Indian Olympic Association as Co-chairman and Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta, Vice President, IOA & President, Badminton Association of India as Chairman, GTCC.**

**The prestigious multi-discipline event encompassing competitions in 23 disciplines and 241 events will be held across two cities — Guwahati & Shillong— for the first time, and will see the participation of a record turnout of about 3,325 athletes and officials from the eight participating countries.**

**That the event is being hosted for the first time in the North East of the country does add significance to the Games, the curtains to which will be brought down on February 16.**

**From a historical perspective, the South Asian Games were established as a movement to foster peace and friendship through regular sporting contact between athletes from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and current host India. The first edition was held in Kathmandu in 1984. This is the third time India will host the Games, after Kolkata in 1987 and Chennai in 1995, and it will have hopes of continuing with its overall dominance across venues for a twelfth straight time.**

Through the last 11 editions, India has been virtually unstoppable, racking up a haul of 1,728 medals — 900 gold, 542 silver and 286 bronze — leaving second-placed Pakistan (1,022, 311-375-336) and Sri Lanka (928, 185-245-455) in third far behind.



**Tikhor, a rhino calf as a sharp, naughty, sporty, and modern boy, was on Sunday (13-12-2015) here declared as the mascot for the upcoming 12th South Asian Games that will be held simultaneously in Guwahati and Shillong from February 6 to 16, 2016. A Bhupen Hazarika song on the other hand has been chosen as the theme song of the event.**

Unveiling the mascot Tikhor, along with the logo of the event – a flower with eight petals representing the eight participating nations – jointly with Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, Home Sports Sport. Union Sports Minister Sarbananda said Tikhor not only represented an energetic all-rounder, but would also focus on the natural heritage of the Northeast in the form of a rhino calf.



Tikhor incidentally is a popular character in Assamese folk literature, who figures in a story called "Tikhor aru Chutibai" immortalized by Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbaroa, the doyen of modern Assamese literature in "Burhi Aair Sadhu" – the first collection of Assamese folk stories published more than 100 years ago. Tikhor, a naughty, energetic orphan boy, not only plays various pranks in the story, but by dint of his presence of mind also helps his sister Chutibai survive all odds including fighting a tiger that had plotted to eat them.

**While the mascot, designed by Anant Khasbardar of Kolhapur, has been selected from among 450 entries by the organizing committee, the logo has been designed by Abhijeet Krishna of NIFT Patna.**

**Meanwhile, a Bhupen Hazarika song has been selected as the theme song for the 12th South Asian Games. Written way back in December 1995, the song – 'Ei prithivi ekhan krirangan/krira hol shantir prangan' (This world is a playground and sports is a symbol of peace) – is being translated into at least eight languages to represent the eight participating nations.**



**The torch relay of the 12th South Asian Games kicked off at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here on 17-01-2016. Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President N. Ramachandran handed over the torch to Union Sports Minister and Organising Committee of the Games Chairman Sarbananda Sonowal.**

**After lighting the torch, Sonowal passed it on to Olympic Hockey Gold Medallist Zafar Iqbal and Commonwealth Games Champion weightlifter N. Kunjarani Devi to begin the relay.** The torch was received by IOA Secretary General Rajiv Mehta at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

**Well-known Sportspersons like P. GopiChand, Rajkumar Sangwan, Seema Punia, Krishna Poonia, Manjeet Dua, Neha Aggarwal, Gurbaj Singh, Romeo James, Bahadur Singh, Devinder Bhatia and Bimoljit Singh and nearly 2,000 volunteers and school children participated in the event.**









The script is unlikely to change this time around. The hosts will have participants in all 23 disciplines, and will be cheered by a partisan crowd both here and in Shillong. With India attempting to come up with yet another record haul, the more keenly watched race will be the one for second spot involving Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Sport apart, the presence of the Pakistani contingent numbering 475 has also caused the Games to be held under unprecedented security cover, with the State and Central Security Agencies virtually turning both host cities into virtual fortresses.



(Union Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs Sarbananda Sonowal accompanied by Chief Minister Mukul Sangma and Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Zenith Sangma, Meghalaya launches a commemorative stamp of the 12th South Asian Games)

## **Medal tally: 11th South Asian Games: Dhaka 2010**

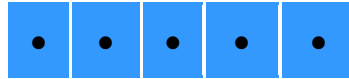
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 <a href="#">India</a> (IND)	90	55	30	175
2	 <a href="#">Pakistan</a> (PAK)	19	25	36	80
3	 <a href="#">Bangladesh</a> (BAN)	18	23	56	97
4	 <a href="#">Sri Lanka</a> (SRI)	16	35	54	105
5	 <a href="#">Nepal</a> (NEP)	8	9	19	36
6	 <a href="#">Afghanistan</a> (AFG)	7	9	16	32
7	 <a href="#">Bhutan</a> (BHU)	0	2	3	5
8	 <a href="#">Maldives</a> (MDV)	0	0	2	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>528</b>

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# Calendar: 12<sup>th</sup> South Asian Games 2016, Guwahati & Shillong

	5th Fri	6th Sat	7th Sun	8th Mon	9th Tue	10th Wed	11th Thu	12th Fri	13th Sat	14th Sun	15th Mon	16th Tue
<b>OC</b> Opening ceremony												
• Event competitions												
<b>1</b> Event finals												
<b>CC</b> Closing ceremony												
<b>February 2016</b>												
<a href="#">Archery</a>	1	2	3	4	5							
<a href="#">Athletics</a>					1	2	3	4				
<a href="#">Badminton</a>		•	•	•	•	•						
<a href="#">Basketball</a>							•	•	•	•	•	•
<a href="#">Boxing</a>									1	2	3	4
<a href="#">Cycling</a>	1	2	3	4								
<a href="#">Football – Men's</a>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<a href="#">Football – Women's</a>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<a href="#">Handball</a>					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<a href="#">Field hockey</a>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
<a href="#">Judo</a>											1	2
<a href="#">Kabaddi</a>							•	•	•	•	•	•
<a href="#">Kho-Kho</a>	•	•	•	•								
<a href="#">Shooting</a>						1	2	3	4	5	6	
<a href="#">Squash</a>	•	•	•	•	•							
<a href="#">Table tennis</a>	•	•	•	•	•							
<a href="#">Taekwondo</a>									1	2	3	

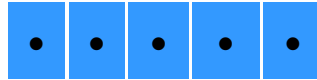
 [Tennis](#)



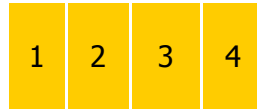
 [Triathlon](#)



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