

# South Asian Games



**South Asian Games** (also known as **SAF Games** or **SAG** & formerly known as **South Asian Federation Games**) are a bi-annual multi-sport event held among the athletes from South Asia. The governing body of these games is South Asian Sports Council (SASC), formed in 1983. At present, SAG are joined by eight members namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

In 2004, it was decided in the 32nd meeting of South Asian Sports Council to rename the games from South Asian Federation Games to South Asian Games as the officials believed the word *Federation* was diminishing the emphasis on event and acting as a barrier in attracting crowd.<sup>[1]</sup> These Games are often hyped as the South Asian version of Olympic Games.

## Cultural Value

The SAF Games also helped in promoting cultural exchanges between the member countries. Devoid of any cultural, religious racial or political barriers, the member countries gather together under one banner to create a healthy disciplined show of sportsmanship. The hymn of the Federation clearly expresses the message of goodwill, brotherhood, peace and prosperity:

*Sports is our life, Unity our strength Our skills shine through perseverance SAF will prosper through peace and stability, Keep your spirit higher through sports forever!*

Undoubtedly, a sport is a unique way to break down the barriers of hostility and breed the spirit that brings nations closer together. The motto also signifies the same thought:

## PEACE, PERSEVERANCE, PROGRESS









(Athletics), Swimming, Field Hockey, Football, Volleyball Boxing and other smaller team sports are included in the games, every time South Asian Federation added at least 10 sports discipline to above event. Due to a lack of sporting competition among the nations, this multi event sport is seldom of world standards.



## South Asian Federation (SAF) Games

On 26 November 1981 the South Asian Federation Games was established in Delhi to promote friendship and goodwill among the people of the seven SAARC Countries. On 17 September 1984, Nepal got the privilege to organize the first South Asian Federation Games in Dasrath Stadium in Kathmandu. Out of total 373 Athletes 105 were from host country Nepal. 98 from India, 53 from Bangladesh, 41 from Sri Lanka, 35 from Bhutan 24 from Maldives, 16 from Pakistan took part in this first South Asian Federation Games. His Late Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev declared the first South Asian Federation Games open amidst at colorful ceremony. Nepal participated in all the five games Athletic, Swimming, Weightlifting, Boxing and Football. Nepal bagged 4 gold, 12 silver and 8 bronze medals and ranking fourth among the winners in the first South Asian Federation Games. Among the Nepalese Athletes Baikuntha

Manandar won gold medal in Athletics, Dal Bahadur Rana Magar and Pushakar Dhoj Shahi in Boxing and Nepal Team in Football.








| Venues |       |           |  |
|--------|-------|-----------|--|
| Year   | Games | Host City | Country  |
| 1984   | I     | Kathmandu |  Nepal      |
| 1985   | II    | Dhaka     |  Bangladesh |
| 1987   | III   | Calcutta  |  India      |
| 1989   | IV    | Islamabad |  Pakistan   |
| 1991   | V     | Colombo   |  Sri Lanka  |
| 1993   | VI    | Dhaka     |  Bangladesh |
| 1995   | VII   | Madras    |  India      |
| 1999   | VIII  | Kathmandu |  Nepal      |
| 2004   | IX    | Islamabad |  Pakistan   |
| 2006   | X     | Colombo   |  Sri Lanka  |
| 2009   | XI    | Dhaka     |  Bangladesh |

## 1<sup>st</sup> SAF GAMES - 1984 KATHMANDU (NEPAL)

### Sports

1. Athletics
2. Boxing
3. Football
4. Swimming
5. Weightlifting

### Country wise medal Summary








| Rank | Nation   | Gold      | Silver    | Bronze    | Total      |
|------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1    |  India      | 44        | 28        | 16        | 88         |
| 2    |  Sri Lanka  | 7         | 11        | 19        | 37         |
| 3    |  Pakistan   | 5         | 3         | 2         | 10         |
| 4    |  Nepal      | 4         | 12        | 8         | 24         |
| 5    |  Bangladesh | 2         | 8         | 13        | 23         |
| 6    |  Bhutan     | 0         | 0         | 2         | 2          |
| 7    |  Maldives   | 0         | 0         | 1         | 1          |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>62</b> | <b>62</b> | <b>61</b> | <b>185</b> |

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SAF GAMES - 1985 DHAKA (BANGLADESH)

### Sports

1. Athletics
2. Boxing
3. Football
4. Kabaddi
5. Swimming
6. Weightlifting
7. Wrestling

### Country wise medal Summary








| Rank | Nation   | Gold      | Silver    | Bronze    | Total      |
|------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 1    |  India      | 62        | 31        | 14        | 107        |
| 2    |  Pakistan   | 21        | 26        | 12        | 59         |
| 3    |  Bangladesh | 9         | 17        | 38        | 64         |
| 4    |  Sri Lanka  | 2         | 7         | 9         | 18         |
| 5    |  Nepal      | 1         | 9         | 22        | 32         |
| 6    |  Bhutan     | 0         | 0         | 4         | 4          |
| 7    |  Maldives   | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0          |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>94</b> | <b>91</b> | <b>99</b> | <b>284</b> |

## 3<sup>rd</sup> SAF GAMES - 1987 CALCUTTA (INDIA)

### Sports

1. Athletics
2. Basketball
3. Boxing
4. Football
5. Kabaddi
6. Swimming
7. Table Tennis
8. Volleyball
9. Weightlifting
10. Wrestling

### Country wise medal Summary

| Rank | Nation   | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------|--|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1    |  India      | 91   | 45     | 19     | 155   |
| 2    |  Pakistan   | 16   | 39     | 14     | 66    |
| 3    |  Sri Lanka  | 4    | 7      | 23     | 34    |
| 4    |  Bangladesh | 3    | 20     | 31     | 54    |
| 5    |  Nepal      | 2    | 7      | 33     | 42    |
| 6    |  Bhutan     | 0    | 1      | 5      | 6     |
| 7    |  Maldives   | 0    | 0      | 0      | 0     |








**Total      116                  116                  125                  357**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> SAF GAMES - 1989 ISLAMABAD (PAKISTAN)**

##### **Sports**

1. Athletics
2. Boxing
3. Football
4. Kabaddi
5. Squash
6. Swimming
7. Table Tennis
8. Volleyball
9. Weightlifting
10. Wrestling

##### **Country wise medal Summary**








| <b>Rank</b> | <b>Nation</b>  | <b>Gold</b> | <b>Silver</b> | <b>Bronze</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-------------|--|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1           |  India      | 61          | 43            | 20            | 124          |
| 2           |  Pakistan   | 42          | 33            | 22            | 97           |
| 3           |  Sri Lanka  | 6           | 10            | 21            | 37           |
| 4           |  Nepal      | 1           | 13            | 32            | 46           |
| 5           |  Bangladesh | 1           | 12            | 24            | 37           |
| 6           |  Bhutan    | 0           | 0             | 3             | 3            |
| 7           |  Maldives | 0           | 0             | 0             | 0            |
|             | <b>Total</b>   | <b>111</b>  | <b>111</b>    | <b>122</b>    | <b>344</b>   |

#### **5TH SAF GAMES - 1991 COLOMBO (SRI LANKA)**

##### **Sports**

1. Athletics
2. Basketball
3. Boxing
4. Football
5. Shooting
6. Swimming
7. Table Tennis
8. Tennis
9. Volleyball
10. Weightlifting

## Country wise medal Summary








| Rank | Nation   | Gold       | Silver     | Bronze     | Total      |
|------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1    |  India      | 64         | 59         | 41         | 164        |
| 2    |  Sri Lanka  | 44         | 34         | 40         | 118        |
| 3    |  Pakistan   | 28         | 32         | 25         | 85         |
| 4    |  Bangladesh | 4          | 8          | 28         | 40         |
| 5    |  Nepal      | 2          | 8          | 29         | 39         |
| 6    |  Maldives   | 0          | 1          | 0          | 1          |
| 7    |  Bhutan     | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>142</b> | <b>142</b> | <b>163</b> | <b>447</b> |

## 6<sup>th</sup> SAF GAMES - 1993 DHAKA (Bangladesh)

### Sports

1. Athletics
2. Boxing
3. Football
4. Judo
5. Kabaddi
6. Shooting
7. Swimming
8. Table Tennis
9. Tennis
10. Volleyball
11. Wrestling

### Country wise medal Summary








| Rank | Nation   | Gold       | Silver     | Bronze     | Total      |
|------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1    |  India      | 60         | 46         | 31         | 137        |
| 2    |  Pakistan   | 23         | 22         | 20         | 65         |
| 3    |  Sri Lanka  | 20         | 22         | 39         | 81         |
| 4    |  Bangladesh | 11         | 19         | 32         | 62         |
| 5    |  Nepal      | 1          | 6          | 15         | 22         |
| 6    |  Bhutan     | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| 7    |  Maldives   | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>115</b> | <b>115</b> | <b>137</b> | <b>367</b> |

## 7<sup>th</sup> SAF GAMES - 1995 MADRAS (INDIA)

### Sports

1. Athletics
2. Basketball
3. Boxing
4. Football
5. Hockey
6. Kabaddi
7. Shooting
8. Swimming
9. Table Tennis
10. Tennis
11. Volleyball
12. Weightlifting
13. Wrestling

### Country wise medal Tally








| Rank | Nation   | Gold       | Silver     | Bronze     | Total      |
|------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1    |  India        | 106        | 60         | 19         | 185        |
| 2    |  Sri Lanka  | 16         | 25         | 53         | 94         |
| 3    |  Pakistan   | 10         | 33         | 36         | 79         |
| 4    |  Bangladesh | 11         | 19         | 32         | 62         |
| 5    |  Nepal      | 7          | 17         | 34         | 58         |
| 6    |  Bhutan     | 0          | 0          | 2          | 2          |
| 7    |  Maldives   | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1          |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>143</b> | <b>143</b> | <b>161</b> | <b>447</b> |

## 8<sup>th</sup> SAF GAMES - 1999 KATHMANDU (NEPAL)

### Sports

1. Athletics
2. Boxing
3. Football
4. Kabaddi
5. Karate
6. Shooting
7. Swimming
8. Table Tennis
9. Tennis
10. Volleyball
11. Weightlifting
12. Wrestling

### Country wise medal Tally

| Rank | Nation   | Gold       | Silver     | Bronze     | Total      |
|------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1    |  India      | 102        | 58         | 37         | 197        |
| 2    |  Nepal      | 31         | 10         | 24         | 65         |
| 3    |  Sri Lanka  | 16         | 42         | 62         | 120        |
| 4    |  Pakistan   | 10         | 36         | 30         | 76         |
| 5    |  Bangladesh | 2          | 10         | 35         | 47         |
| 6    |  Bhutan     | 1          | 6          | 7          | 14         |
| 7    |  Maldives   | 0          | 0          | 4          | 4          |
|      | <b>Total</b>   | <b>162</b> | <b>162</b> | <b>199</b> | <b>523</b> |









### 9<sup>th</sup> SAF GAMES - 2004 ISLAMABAD (PAKISTAN)

The 9th SAF Games was scheduled in 2001 in Islamabad . This was postponed thrice due the war in neighbouring Afghanistan. This finally took place in 2004. In the 2004 Islamabad SAF Games , Afghanistan became the 8th nation to participate in the games and showed good results by winning 1 gold, 3 silver and 28 bronze medals . This was a great achievement for a country which was torn part by more than 2 decades of war. After the fall of Taliban , the new government gave enough opportunities to various talents in the country. The SAF Games gave an ideal platform for the athletes from war strike country to show their talents and skills.

### Sports

1. Athletics
2. Badminton
3. Archery
4. Boxing
5. Cycling
6. Football
7. Hockey
8. Judo
9. Kabaddi
10. Karate
11. Rowing
12. Shooting
13. Squash
14. Swimming
15. Table Tennis
16. Taekwondo
17. Volleyball
18. Weightlifting
19. Wrestling
20. Wushu

### Country wise medal Tally

| Rank | Nation  | Gold       | Silver     | Bronze     | Total      |
|------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1    |  India       | 103        | 57         | 32         | 192        |
| 2    |  Pakistan    | 38         | 55         | 50         | 143        |
| 3    |  Sri Lanka   | 17         | 32         | 57         | 106        |
| 4    |  Nepal       | 7          | 6          | 20         | 33         |
| 5    |  Bangladesh  | 3          | 13         | 24         | 40         |
| 6    |  Afghanistan | 1          | 3          | 28         | 32         |
| 7    |  Bhutan      | 1          | 3          | 2          | 6          |
| 8    |  Maldives    | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
|      | <b>Total</b>  | <b>170</b> | <b>169</b> | <b>213</b> | <b>552</b> |










### 10<sup>th</sup> SAF GAMES - 2006 COLOMBO (SRI LANKA)

From 2006 this games will also be called as **South Asian Games**. At Sugathadasa Stadium. See *main article 2006 South Asian Games*.

### Sports

1. Archery
2. Athletics
3. Badminton
4. Boxing
5. Cycling
6. Football
7. Hockey
8. Judo
9. Kabaddi
10. Karatedo
11. Rowing
12. Shooting
13. Squash
14. Swimming
15. Table Tennis
16. Taekwondo
17. Volleyball
18. Weightlifting
19. Wrestling
20. Wushu

## Country wise medal Summary

| COUNTRY   | Gold  | Silver  | Bronze  | TOTAL      |
|---|--|--|--|------------|
|  India       | 118  | 69   | 47   | 234        |
|  Pakistan    | 43   | 44   | 71   | 158        |
|  Sri Lanka   | 37   | 63   | 78   | 178        |
|  Nepal       | 9  | 15   | 31   | 55         |
|  Afghanistan | 6  | 7  | 16   | 29         |
|  Bangladesh  | 3  | 15   | 34   | 52         |
|  Bhutan      | -  | 3  | 10   | 13         |
|  Maldives    | -  | -  | -  | -          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>216</b>   | <b>216</b>   | <b>287</b>   | <b>719</b> |

## Analysis of Medal Won by Each South Asian Countries in SAG Games (1984 to 2006)

| Country            | Gold        | Silver      | Bronze      | Total Medals | %             |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>India</b>       | 813         | 497         | 227         | 1537         | 36.45         |
| <b>Pakistan</b>    | 236         | 321         | 282         | 839          | 19.90         |
| <b>Sri Lanka</b>   | 169         | 253         | 401         | 823          | 19.52         |
| <b>Nepal</b>       | 63          | 103         | 248         | 414          | 9.82          |
| <b>Bangladesh</b>  | 49          | 141         | 291         | 481          | 11.41         |
| <b>Afghanistan</b> | 7           | 10          | 49          | 66           | 1.57          |
| <b>Bhutan</b>      | 2           | 14          | 35          | 51           | 1.21          |
| <b>Maldives</b>    | 0           | 0           | 6           | 6            | 0.14          |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>1339</b> | <b>1339</b> | <b>1539</b> | <b>4217</b>  | <b>100.00</b> |

Calculated By: D.L. Amatya -NSC-SAN

## 11<sup>th</sup> SAF GAMES - 2009 DHAKA (BANGLADESH)

The 11th SAF Games are scheduled to be held in Bangladesh's capital city Dhaka. This edition will feature cricket for the first time. Hockey has been omitted from the program. The South Asian Olympic Council met on February 22, 2009, and decided to postpone the 11th SAF Games to November - December, 2009.