

Chanu's chase ends with silver

Nagoya: Mirabai Chanu finally has them all in her glittering trophy cabinet.

The star weightlifter won silver in the women's 49kg event, completing her 12-year chase for the elusive Asian Games medal on Wednesday.

The Tokyo Olympic silver medallist totalled 198kg (87kg+111kg) to claim India's first weightlifting medal at the Asian Games since Karnam Malleswari's silver in 1998.

"Winning an Asian Games medal is a dream come true. I have been chasing this medal for the last 12 years, since 2014. My life is complete now. And I am feeling very light. It's a dream Asian Games," Chanu said.

"I won a silver medal in Tokyo (Olympics) and now I have a silver medal at the Asian Games in Japan. I've been dreaming of winning an Asian Games medal since I stepped into the Olympics.

"I always ask myself, what is happening to me during or before every Asian Games? But this time, I tried my best. I came with the resolve that no matter what happens, I will win the medal," added the 32-year-old from Manipur.

She said the Asian Games medal is equivalent to an Olympic medal since the top weightlifters in the world are mostly from Asia.

Asked what is special on Wednesday, she said: "Everything is special. Olympic rings, hairband, nails."

This silver completes a collection for Chanu that already includes an Olympic silver, three World Championship medals, including a gold, multiple Commonwealth Games and Championships titles and an Asian Championships bronze.

The Asian Games had repeatedly found a way to leave her empty-handed. In 2014 she finished ninth on debut, missed the 2018 edition because of a back injury, and



Mirabai Chanu during the women's 49kg weightlifting final at the Asian Games in Nagoya on Wednesday. (PTI)

settled for fourth in Hangzhou in 2023.

Nagoya delivered for her.

Chanu opened her snatch series with 83kg, then smoothly cleared 85kg and 87kg to finish the first half of the competition in third place.

ASIAN GAMES

In the clean and jerk, she made 107kg look routine with her opening lift. She then heaved 111kg.

With silver assured, she did not take her final attempt.

There will be no 49kg category in the 2028 LA Olympics, but 53kg, and Chanu said she has not decided regarding her preparations in the higher weight class.

Record-smash

North Korea's Ri Song Gum broke three world records

as she completed a hat-trick of Asian Games titles with a stunning 215kg (94kg+121kg) in the 49kg event.

The 28-year-old lifted 94kg in snatch, 1kg more than the previous world mark, then followed it up with a clean-and-jerk of 121kg, bettering the previous best of 120kg with her total haul eclipsing the previous benchmark by 4kg.

Indonesia's Luluk Diana Tri Wijayana took bronze with 191kg (88kg+103kg).

Gyaneshwari 8th

In the women's 53kg event, Commonwealth Games silver medallist Gyaneshwari Yadav finished eighth. The 23-year-old lifted 87kg in snatch and 108kg in clean jerk for a total effort of 195kg, which was 4kg less than her 199kg effort in Glasgow in July.

PTI, Reuters

'Olympic medal' for Jay in Asiad bronze

Nagoya: India won its first soft tennis medal at the Asian Games on Wednesday with 26-year-old Jay Meena fetching a bronze.

Jay lost to Japan's Takuya



Jay Meena, in a picture shared on X, at the Asian Games

Kurosaka in the men's singles semi-finals here.

Playing in his third Asian Games, he produced a spirited fightback after falling three games behind but could not sustain the momentum, losing 2-4 to Kurosaka.

"You know what? It's an Olympic medal for me," said Jay, who hails from Madhya Pradesh's Dewas and had narrowly missed out on a bronze after losing to China in Hangzhou in 2023.

Earlier in the day, Jay reached the semis after seeing off the Philippines' Sherwin Nuguit 4-3.

PTI