

Press Release

Pistol legend Jaspal's daughter Devanshi snares gold; Mehuli, Manisha become double gold medallists

Pune, January 13: Devanshi Rana's solid start provided her the necessary insurance against a less than productive showing in the final stages to win the junior (Under-21) women's 25m pistol gold in the Khelo India Youth Games here today. In the end, National junior pistol coach Jaspal Rana's daughter held off a challenge by Haryana's resurgent Anjali Choudhary.

In a field that was bereft of shooters like Manu Bhaker and Muskaan (both Haryana), the Delhi girl won by the barest of margins, 24-23 after dueling with Anjali Choudhary. The Haryana girl's confidence and rhythm found expression after she secured four hits (10.2 points or higher) in the ninth series to force a shoot-off with the consistent Abhidnya Patil (Maharashtra).

She won that battle to get the chance to topple the Delhi girl from the pedestal. The 19-year-old from Delhi managed just one hit to finish with 24. Devanshi heaved a sigh of relief that Anjali did not replicate her score from the previous round but had only three hits in the last series. She herself had done well to start the final with nine hits from the first competition stage of 15 shots.

Anjali hit a purple patch, scoring 17 hits off 30 (against 15 by Devanshi) but by securing just three hits in that final series, she let Devanshi Rana, who has represented India in Junior World Cups and Junior World Championships, keep her nose ahead and claim the gold medal.

West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh became the first double gold medallist in shooting at KIYG2019 when she teamed up with 10-year-old Abhinav Shaw in the 10m air rifle mixed team event. Despite slipping into practice mode after winning the individual gold yesterday, Mehuli Ghosh kept her tryst with the 10s every time today to steal a march on Gujarat shooter Elavenil Valarivan again.

Manisha Keer followed suit not too long after by winning the mixed trap gold for Madhya Pradesh with Anwer Hassan Khan. She had claimed gold in the women's trap yesterday. The Madhya Pradesh pair shot down 35 birds in the 50-shot final. Delhi's Vrishankaditya Parmar and Kirti Gupta shot 32 to take the silver medal.

Yet, despite Mehuli and Manisha's double gold medals, it was Devanshi Rana who took the largest share of the spotlight on Sunday.

It was Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore's son, Manavaditya Singh Rathore, who showed that he is a chip off the old block by winning the trap gold yesterday and today, it was Devanshi Rana's turn to reveal her pedigree. Her father was among the first Indian pistol prodigies.

The results (finals):

Junior (under-21) 10m air rifle mixed team: 1. West Bengal (Abhinav Shaw and Mehuli Ghosh) 501.7; 2. Rajasthan (Manini Kaushik and Divyansh Singh) 496.1; 3. Madhya Pradesh (Shreya Agarwal and Harshit Binjwa) 433.6.

Junior (under-21) 25m pistol women: 1. Devanshi Rana (Delhi) 24; 2. Anjali Choudhary (Haryana) 23; 3. Abhidnya Ashok Patil (Maharashtra) 20 (lost shoot-off with Anjali Choudhary).

Junior (Under-21) mixed team Trap: 1. Madhya Pradesh (Anwer Hassan Khan and Manisha Keer) 35; 2. Delhi (Vrishankaditya Parmar and Kirti Gupta) 32; 3. Maharashtra (Ashutosh Murkute and Sharayu P Dalvi) 27.