



## Press Release

### **Host India wins overall trophy of 1st BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships, Team Thailand comes second**

**New Delhi, Feb 10, 2024:** The 1st BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 that was kicked off by Hon'ble Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Shri Sports Anurag Singh Thakur earlier this week concluded on Friday, February 9th, with Team India taking the overall trophy with 360 points.

The Indian swimmers who won a total of 19 Gold medals also took the men's and women's champion trophies and the Men and Women's diving teams also winning Diving champions trophies.

Trophies for Best Swimmer Male were given to India's Harsh Saroha for winning 3 Gold Medals and Best Swimmer Female to Thailand's Maria Anedelko for winning 3 Gold and 1 Silver.

Team Thailand meanwhile won the Men and Women's Water Polo Championship trophies

The first-of-its-kind event saw participation from many known swimmers including a few who had participated at the Asian Games held in Hangzhou last year.

The BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 which was held at Delhi's Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Swimming Pool Complex for the first time, is first of its kind sports event held under BIMSTEC (The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) which constitutes a unique link between South and South-East Asian countries with five members from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) and two members from South-East Asia (Myanmar & Thailand).

The announcement for the event was made by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in 2018, while the event was initially proposed for the year 2021, it was later postponed to 2024 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic at the time.

The competitions, which were being hosted for participants of the 20 and under age category had events in Swimming, Water Polo and Diving. A total of 43 events took place across 3 aquatics disciplines, with 9 trophies including overall champions being given out. Over 268 athletes from various BIMSTEC member countries participated in the event..

