

## Press Release

### **Soumya, a dancer, who turned to weightlifting, shines at Khelo India Youth Games 2019**

**Pune, Jan 10:** Soumya Dalvi will surely be a name to reckon in coming years in weightlifting. The 13 year old from Kalyan has stamped her authority on her chosen sport in very quick time.

Soumya took to weightlifting at age 12, and in one and a half years has won national championships while creating records along the way. Her first taste of success came at the Nagpur national last year when she created records in snatch and overall total.

Her other love is dancing, and if it was not for weightlifting, it would have been dancing that would have been her profession of choice.

Come 2019, and she was selected in the Maharashtrian contingent for the Khelo India Youth Games at Pune and almost effortlessly not only bettered her own records but went on to clinch gold in the U-17 Women 40kg category.

With weightlifting in her blood, it was a natural choice for Soumya to turn to the sport. Her father Sunil a former weight lifter and Chhatrapati Award winner was the inspiration behind her decision.

Said Soumya on here on Wednesday, "Watching my father play this sport naturally attracted me towards it". Realising her affinity, Sunil took responsibility for her training and practice completely.

Asked how confident she was before the competition began, Soumya said with calm assurance, "I knew that the competition was tough but deep inside, I knew I could make the cut".

On who her role model was, a smiling Soumya's reply was instant. "My father", but added that Mirabai Chanu was also someone she respected immensely.

"It's like a dream come true for me," her father after said the competition, his relaxed and happy look enough to convey the sense of satisfaction he felt.

Impatient to share the news with her mother, Soumya signed off with a trademark reply when asked, if not weightlifting, what? Pat came the reply, "Dancer".