

Sports Authority of India

India's 16-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary gets team's third gold by winning Men's 10m Air Pistol in nail-biting finish

- **Sanjeev Rajput adds silver 50m Rifle 3-position**
- **Abhishek Verma gets bronze in Men's 10m Air Pistol**
- **Kabaddi women keep all-win record**
- **Men's tennis doubles pairs reach last eight**
- **Dattu Bhokanal in rowing final**

Jakarta/ Palembang, August 21: The Indian contingent kept up its momentum of one gold a day, as 16-year-old teenager Saurabh Chaudhary produced an Asian Games record score of 240.7 to clinch the gold medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol final at the Asian Games 2018 on Tuesday.

Giving Chaudhary company on the podium was Abhishek Verma, who won the bronze.

Later on, experienced Sanjeev Rajput added a silver to the kitty in Men's 50m Rifle 3-Positions to take the day's shooting haul to one gold, one silver and one bronze. Overall India has three gold, three silver and two bronze. Six of those eight medals have come from shooting, while wrestling has contributed two golds.

In shooting, being held at Palembang, Chaudhary piped Japan's Tomoyuki Matsuda (239.7) in an exciting final. Chaudhary was in the second position for most of the final after finishing first in the qualification. The qualifying scores are wiped out for the final, where things begin afresh for the eight finalists, which included Abhishek Verma, who qualified for the final in the sixth position with a score of 580.

Chaudhary who stayed close behind Matsuda, a former two-time world champion, took the lead for the first time after Matsuda fired 8.9 in his penultimate shot. The Indian went ahead with a 10.2 off his second-last shot and held his nerve to stay ahead.

Nerve-wracking it was for all watching, but Chaudhary seemed unaffected. “I did not feel any pressure,” said Chaudhary who is part of the Government's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), who took to shooting only three years ago.

The field also included Jin Jingoh from South Korea, whose first Asian Games medal came a few months before Chaudhary was born in 2002.

India's previous medals in shooting at the Asian Games 2018 have been Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar with a bronze in 10m Air Rifle Team event while Deepak Kumar won silver in 10m Air Rifle individual event and 18-year old Lakshay clinched the silver medal in Men's Trap.

Chaudhary has been a shooter on the rise this year. He set a new world record on the way to winning a gold medal in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany and also qualified for the Youth Olympics Games with a gold medal and a junior world record at Asian Youth Olympics Games qualification.

This year at the ISSF World Cup in Munich, the 29-year old Verma won the mixed gold with Yashaswini Deswal.

Kabaddi – Women finish league stage with all-win record

Indian women finished on top of the Pool with two more wins in the Kabaddi league stage. They thrashed Sri Lanka 38-12 and later outplayed hosts Indonesia 54-22 to end with an all-win record.

India has eight points from four wins and they are followed by Thailand who have one more match against Indonesia left to play. The right for the second place is between Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Rowing – Dattu Bhokanal and Men's Lightweight four reach final

There was good news from the rowing venue, where Dattu Bhokanal has qualified for final by winning his Men's single sculls repackage in 7:45.71 which was still slower than the second repackage. The four-man final will be held later in the week.

In Women's Pair Repackage, Dung Dung Sanjukta and Harpreet Kaur finished third and were pushed to 'B' Finals, which is for classification places.

In Men's Lightweight Four repackage, Bhopal Singh, Jagvir Singh, Tejas Shinde and Pranay Ganesh Naukarkar finished second in their heat in a time of 1:39.97 seconds and reached the final to be held later in the week on Thursday.

Swimming – Khade's time 3rd best among those in the final

In men's 50m freestyle, Virdhwal Khade won his heat in 22.43 seconds to qualify for the final to be held later tonight. India's other entry in the event, Anshul Kothari also won his heat in a time of 23.83 seconds but was unable to qualify for the eight man final.

Khade's time was third best among all qualifiers for the final behind China's Yu Hexin (22.21s) and Kenneth Kim Him To of Taipei (22.38s).

Tennis – Ankita Raina in last eight of women's singles; Men's doubles pair reach last eight

Indian men had a successful day in doubles as both pairs have reached the last eight stage. Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan beat Taipei's Chen Ti and Peng Hsienyin in two close sets as both went into the tie-breaker. The Indians won 7-6, 7-6. The Indians will now meet Kazakh's Bublik Aleksandr and Denis Tevseyev on Wednesday.

Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan beat Thai pair N Kadchapanan and Wishaya Trongcharoen Cahikul 6-3, 6-1. The Indians will take on Taipei Hsieh Chengpeng and Yang Tsung-Hua.

In women's singles Ankita Raina reached the last eight as she outplayed her Japanese opponent Eri Hozumi 6-1, 6-2, but Kamran Kaur Thandi lost her Round of 16 match to Liang En-Shuo of Taipei after a third set tie-breaker. The Indian won the first set but lost the next two and the match at 6-2, 4-6, 6-7.

Archery – Women move into elimination stage

The Indian women' team moved into the 1/8 elimination stage after finishing seventh. The Indian trio of Ankita Bhakat (617), Promila Daimary (642) and Deepika Kumari (649) totaled 1908, as the South Koreans broke the Games record with a total of 2038.

In the first elimination round, which is the 1/8 finals, India will meet Mongolia who were tenth. Two teams, Korea and Taipei, who were the top two in the ranking rounds, have been seeded into the quarter-finals.

In the women's Recurve ranking round, India's Deepika Kumari (649) was the best in 17th place while Promila Daimary (642) was 21st. Ankita Bhakat (617) was 36th and Laxmi Majhirani (608) was 44th.

Deepika and Promila have now been seeded into the 1/16 eliminations with Deepika taking on North Korea's Ri Ji Hyang while Promila meeting Bishindee Urantunglag of Mongolia.
