

## Press Release

### All-round display takes Maharashtra to the top in medals tally

**Pune, Jan 10:** Hosts Maharashtra moved into the lead in the medal tally as they amassed 11 gold on Thursday and held a two-gold advantage over Delhi as the battle intensified at the Khelo India Youth Games.

Delhi were a close second with 13 gold and Haryana, who topped the Khelo India School Games a year ago are currently third with 12 gold.

Maharashtra, who with a huge contingent that is determined to take the honours, has so far won a total of 57 medals, with 19 silver and 23 bronze also.

Delhi have 13 gold, 10 silver and 13 bronze and a total of 36 medals, while Haryana have 12 gold, 10 silver and 18 bronze for a total of 40 medals.

Maharashtra's haul was mainly from Gymnastics (five) and Swimming (three) while their athletes won two and weightlifters took one gold. Haryana had a massive haul of nine gold from wrestling, of which women won seven, and their only other gold came in Judo.

Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh hogged the lion's share of medals in gymnastics action here on Thursday. The home state bagged five of the 14 gold on offer, while UP took four. UP dominated the men's section with four gold, while West Bengal (3) and Jammu & Kashmir (2) shared five gold in the women's events. In terms of medals, Maharashtra had a whopping haul of 17, comprising five gold, five silver and seven bronze. UP took eight with four gold, one silver and three bronze.

However, West Bengal's Protishtha Samanta (three gold to take her tally to four) and Jammu and Kashmir's Bavleen Kaur (two gold to take her tally to three) were the big stars.

Prothistha bagged three individual gold and took her personal tally to four – she won an earlier gold two days ago. Bavleen emerged as another major star among women, as she won two gold to take her haul to three at these Games.

Among men, UP gymnast Mohammed Rafey, who had one gold earlier, added two more on Thursday to take his golden haul to three. Rafey's brother, Mohammed Anas, also has a gold, and still has his individual apparatus events left.

In wrestling, Haryana underlined their supremacy in the wrestling ring winning all seven gold medals in the girls' under-17 weight category even without their star internationals Anshu and Sonam. Along with seven gold, Haryana took home one silver and five bronze medals.

Hosts Maharashtra put up a game fight but had to be content with two silver and five bronze medals in the girls' segment.

In the boys' under-21 Greco Roman category, Haryana won two gold and two silver medals, taking their day's tally to nine gold, while Maharashtra earned silver medals from Gokul Yadav (77kg) and Rohit Ahire (72kg). A bronze came from Digvijay Bhondve in 97kg.

It was yet another day of records in weightlifting as the victory podium was dominated by Mizoram who clinched two gold, one silver and a bronze in the men's 61kg (youth and junior combined) and a gold and silver each in the men's 67kg (youth and junior)

In the men's 61kg category, Mizoram's Zakhuma and Jacob Vanlalitluanga won gold and silver respectively in the U21 men's category, while N.S. Abishek (Tamil Nadu) had to be content with the bronze.

In the U-17 event, Mizoram's Vanlalitluanga and Lalhunthara clinched gold and bronze respectively with Arunachal Pradesh lifter Charu Pesi taking the silver.

Zakhuma and Jacob Vanlalitluanga, reigned supreme in the junior and youth 61kg event and ensured that the statisticians had a busy time as they fought intensely breaking each other records in sequence.

The junior event saw the best of the action when Jacob and Zakuma engaged in an intense battle for superiority that had the crowd on the edge of their seats. In the clean & jerk, Jacob lifted 139kg against his previous best of 138kgs, but saw it being shattered by Zakhuma who hoisted 140kg.

In the men's 67kg category all eyes were on Youth Olympics gold medallist Jeremy Lalrinnunga who duly took gold in the U-17 event and silver in the U-21s.

In athletics, Punjab's Kunwer Ajai Raj Singh Rana was the star of the competition with a 75.40m throw that earned him the Under-17 javelin throw gold. Rana's performance made a telling statement about the quality on offer in this discipline in which Neeraj Chopra has inspired many youngsters with his feats.

Rana gave himself an early birthday present with the gold medal. The thrower who trains at the Punjab Institute of Sports will turn 17 on Saturday and finished sixth at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires.

The 16-year-old Suraj Kumar (Uttar Pradesh) came up with a personal best throw of 73.42m which was enough only to keep his nose ahead of Sudama Yadav (Bihar) for second place. But the fact that these three throwers went past the 70m mark is indication of the inherent talent among young Indians in a rather technical event.

Tamil Nadu's Karuniya Muthuramalingam, who turns 19 on Friday, was another gifting herself an early birthday present with the girls Under-21 discus throw title, beating back Arpandeeep Kaur Bajwa (Punjab) and Seema (Haryana).

Delhi judokas proved unstoppable, winning three of the six gold at stake on the opening day of the event in the Khelo India Youth Games 2019 here on Thursday. Delhi won three gold, one silver and two bronze for a total of six medals.

On a day that saw action confined to the Under-17s, the other three gold were shared by Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat.

Delhi began their top-podium finish in the girl's section when Manini Singh bagged the Below-44kgs. In an all-Delhi final against Muskan Manini won by an Ippon. Later, Navika fought off the stiff challenge of Kabi Doyon (Arunachal Pradesh) by a 2-1 Wazari count. In the boy's section, Kunal Vats (Below-60kgs) turned the tables on the well-built Money Sharma (Punjab) by an Ippon.

At the end of the day Delhi had three gold, one silver and two bronze and topped the day with six medals in their kitty. Haryana was second best with four medals (one gold, two silver, one bronze).

Gujarat judoka Sonal Bhupat won a marathon in the girls Below-40kg event. Pitted against Priya (Haryana), Sonal needed the 'Golden Score' to take the top spot.