

Sports Authority of India

Rahi Sarnobat is the Golden star on Day 4 as Wushu squad adds four bronze for India

- **Santosh Kumar, Surya Bhanu Pratap Singh, Narender Grewal and Roshibina Devi Naorem bag Wushu bronze**
- **Ankita Raina in medal round in women's singles**
- **Big wins for Indian hockey teams**

Shooting gold and four bronze from Wushu light up India on Day 4

Jakarta/ Palembang, August 22: Rahi Sarnobat came through the trial by fire and became the first Indian woman to win an Asian Games gold medal in shooting. After leading for the better part of the competition in 25m Pistol where she had a bronze in the team competition four years ago in Incheon, Korea, the 27-year-old Sarnobat was taken all the way into a shoot-off by Thailand's Naphaswan Yangpaiboon, who won silver, while South Korea's Kim Minjung won bronze with a score of 29.

Sarnobat's gold was India's fourth gold of the Games and the second from shooting after Saurabh Chaudhary, a day earlier. Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat have been the two wrestlers to finish on top of the podium.

The gold from shooting in the morning was supplemented by three bronze medals from men's and one from women in the Wushu competition in the evening.

The Wushu medallists were Santosh Kumar (56kg), Surya Bhanu Pratap Singh (60kg), Narender Grewal (65kg) and Roshibina Devi Naorem (women's 60kg). Santosh, Surya and Grewal are all supported by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

The Indian medals tally at the end of Day four read four gold, three silver and eight bronze for a total of 15 medals.

Up against two opponents, who had both won a Gold at a competition in New Delhi last year – Naphaswan won the World Cup, while Kim Minjung won the World Cup final – Sarnobat emerged a creditable winner.

The tension started to get to the top two in the final stages, but Sarnobat seemed to have a better control of it than the Thai shooter.

Sarnobat edged out Naphaswan Yangpaiboon after both were tied at 34 points following 10 series of five shots each, resulting in a shoot-off. Once again both found the target four times in the shoot-off, necessitating another shoot-off where Rahi shot three and the Thai shot two, giving the Indian the gold. Earlier teenaged Manu Bhaker also made the final, but she finished sixth in the final.

Manu Bhaker, 16, had a superb morning session, as she shot 593 to equal the Games qualification record, while Sarnobat had just sneaked into the finals in seventh place, shooting 580. Bhaker failed in the final and ended sixth, while Sarnobat went all the way.

It was a great effort from Sarnobat, who had earlier won a gold in the ISSF World Cup in Changwon, Korea in 2013. She also had a gold at the 2014 Glasgow Games, but was unable to replicate that form in Incheon, where she was third.

A serious elbow injury affected her performances last year and she did not participate in the Commonwealth Games this year. That was when she enlisted the services of a Mongolian-born Munkhbayar Dorjsuren, a two-time world champion and Olympic medallist from Germany. Dorjsuren won an Olympic bronze for Mongolia in 1992 and in 2008, she won a bronze for Germany, where she had moved by then. She also world titles in 1998 and 2002.

Sarnobat also has a gold from 2010 Commonwealth Games in 25m Pistol Pairs and a gold at 2014 Commonwealth Games in individual.

In the women's Rifle 3 Positions event, Anjum Moudgil and Gayathri Nithyanandam did not reach the final.

Wushu – Four bronze boost Indian tally

Narender Grewal (65kg) picked his second successive Asian Games bronze medal after getting past Clemente Tabugara of the Philippines and Akmal Rakhimov in the earlier rounds before losing to Iran's Foroud Zafari in the semi-finals.

Santosh Kumar, a bronze medallist from 2013 World Championships, added a bronze from 2018 Asian Games to his list of achievements despite a loss to Vietnam's Truong Giang Bui in the semi-finals of the 56 kg category. Earlier in

the week, Santosh had scored fine wins over Myanmar's Linn Thu Rain in the Round of 32 and that was followed by a win over Yemen's Wazid Zaid Ali in Round of 16. Santosh reached the medal round with a win in the quarters over Thailand's Phithak Poakrathok.

Surya Bhanu (60kg) who beat Abdul Soyhan Haris and Jean Claude Saclag in the earlier rounds lost to Erfan Ahangarian of Iran but still took a bronze. Surya has in the past ranked third in 2015 and 2017 World Championships.

Roshibina Devi (60kg women) was seeded straight into the quarters, where she beat Pakistan's Mubashra before losing to China's Cai Yingying but still earned a bronze.

Hockey – Indian men and women score big wins

The Indian men and women's teams toyed around with their respective opponents on Wednesday. The men's team recorded its biggest ever win in international hockey by decimating Hong Kong 26-0 in a Pool B match of the Asian Games.

The score outstripped a 86-year-old Indian record, also held by India since 1932, when they beat United States 24-1 in the Olympic Games. The record for biggest win in international hockey belongs to New Zealand who beat Samoa 36-1 in 1994.

Rupinderpal Singh (3rd, 5th, 30th, 45th, 59th minutes), Harmanpreet Singh (29th, 52nd, 53rd, 54th) and Akashdeep Singh (2nd, 32nd, 35th) scored a hat trick each, while Manpreet Singh (3rd, 17th), Lalit Upadhyay (17th, 19th), Varun Kumar (23rd, 30th), SV Sunil (7th), Vivek Sagar Prasad (14th), Mandeep Singh (21st), Amit Rohidas (27th), Dilpreet Singh (48th), Chinglensana Singh (51st), Simranjeet Singh (53rd) and Surender Kumar (55th) were the other goal-getters for India.

India trounced hosts Indonesia 17-0 in their first pool match.

In the women's section, India outplayed Kazakhstan 21-0 with major contributions from Navjot Kaur (five), Gurjit Kaur (four) and Lalremsiami (3).

Archery – Indian teams move ahead in ranking round

Women's Compound Team: The Indian team of Vennam Jyoti Surekha, Muskan Kirar and Madhumita Kumari were second in the ranking round of the women's compound archery event, which was topped by South Korea. The fancied Korean team totaled 2105 with trio of So Chaewon, Song Yun Soo and Choi Bomin, shot a Games record score. The Indians shot 2085.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam was the star of the show, grabbing the second spot in the individual rankings with 706 points, one less than top-ranked Yinsuhan Chen of Chinese Taipei. Muskan Kiran was ninth with 691 points and Madhumita Kumari was 11th with 689. Trisha Deb placed 19th. The Indians are seen as the major hurdle in the way of the Koreans winning the gold in Jakarta.

Men's compound team: The Indian men's compound archery team of Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini and Rajat Chauhan were with 1741 points in the ranking round behind World No. 2 Korea (1762) and World No. 9 Chinese Taipei (1741). The World No. 8 Indians will need to push their performance a notch up to contend for the medals.

Compound Mixed Team: The Indian compound archery mixed team comprising Abhishek Verma and Jyoti Surekha Vennam scored 1350 points to tie with Chinese Taipei for the second spot on the ranking charts but had to settle for third rank with one fewer "10" than its rival pair of Pan Yu Ping and Chen Yi Hsuan. The two teams are drawn to meet in the semifinals.

Tennis

In tennis in Palembang Ankita Raina confirmed what will only be the third singles medal in women's tennis for India at the Asian Games after reaching the semi-finals despite being 1-4 down at one stage. Raina beat Eudice Chong Wong of Hong Kong 6-4 6-1 in their quarter-final match.

She won the first set in 54 minutes and took only 27 minutes to claim the second set.

Raina came back from behind to take the first set 6-4 against Chong. Raina was trailing 0-3 and 1-4 at the beginning of the match before staging a comeback.

Gymnastics

In Gymnastics Dipa Karmakar pulled out of the artistic team finals of the ongoing Asian Games after a knee injury flared up again. She decided to pull out to avoid risk of a aggravating the injury. She has however decided to compete in the individual Beam event, where she has reached the final.