

## Press Release

### Delhi wrestlers give them early edge in medals race; Maharashtra have four at KIYG 2019

**Pune, Jan 9:** Records fell like ninepins in the weightlifting competition, even as the Khelo Indian Youth Games got off to a formal start at the Shiv Chhatrapati Stadium at Balewadi in Pune.

It was an action-packed day, as three of the four categories in weightlifting saw new records. Maharashtra won three of the four gold, while Odisha through Bhaktaram Desti in men's 49 kg in Under-17 category, got their first gold of the Games.

If Maharashtra dominated weightlifting winning three of the four gold, Delhi dominated Greco-Roman wrestling winning five of the 10 gold available in the day. In wrestling, Haryana won two gold, while Maharashtra, Manipur and Punjab accounted for one each.

The Delhi winners in wrestling Neeraj (U-17, 65 kg), Ravi (U-17, 71 kg), Vijender (U-17, 80 kg), Naveen Punia (U-17, 92 kg) and Sachin Rana (U-21, 60kg). Haryana's winners were Ravi (U-17, 60kg) and Pradeep Kumar (U-21, 55kg).

So, at the end of the day, Delhi have five gold, hosts Maharashtra have won four, Haryana have two, while Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have won one each.

Weightlifting saw a series of records fall and three of the four categories saw new marks. In the only women's event, Under-17 40kg, Maharashtra's Soumya Dalvi improved her own record and won the gold beating teammate Arati Tatgunti, while Maharashtra's Shubham Kolekar improved his own Junior mark and won gold in men's Under-21 55kg, Maharashtra's Abhishek Mahajan emerged winner in Under-17 55kg and Bhaktaram Desti raised his own record while winning gold in men's Under-17 49 kg category as the Orissa lifter thwarted a Maharashtra sweep in weightlifting on Wednesday.

In Gymnastics, late on Tuesday night, Uttar Pradesh (through Mohammed Rafey) and West Bengal (through Prathista Samanta) won one gold each, while on Wednesday in the Under-17 all-round Rhythmic gymnastics, Bavleen Kaur gave Jammu and Kashmir their first gold of the Games.

Gymnast Bavleen Kaur gave Jammu and Kashmir their first medal of the Khelo India Youth Games 2019 with gold in the women's Under-17 all-round rhythmic gymnastics event. She beat back a challenge from Maharashtra's Shreya Bhangale and Krisha Chheda. Her performances on Ribbon and Hoop proved to be decisive.

Late last night, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal got off to a gold medal winning start in gymnastics as Mohammed Rafey (UP) and Prathista Samanta (WB) became the first gold medal winners of the Games. Uttar Pradesh were dominant in the men's category with Rafey and Raj Yadav grabbing gold and silver with scores of 68.25 and 67.50 respectively. Delhi's Tushar Kalyan clinched the bronze medal with an all-round score of 66.90. Tushar's won the bronze medal at the Khelo India School Games last year.

Prathista Samanta beat back a challenge by Maharashtra's twin sisters Siddhi and Riddhi Hattekar to emerge on top of the heap in the women's under-17 competition. It was her vault that helped her keep her nose ahead of the Aurangabad twins. She scored 13.00 on the vault to compensate for the uneven bars score of 7.10.

Manipur's lone winner in wrestling was Khundongbam Loyangamba Singh (U17: 51kg).