

## **Press Release**

### **Delhi swimmers dominate, Karnataka and Maharashtra follow**

**Pune, Jan 11:** In-form Delhi girl Prachi Tokas surprised favourite Khushi Dinesh of Karnataka in the girls U-17 Freestyle event, to win her second successive gold as Delhi swimmers dominated the pool at the Khelo India Youth Games in Pune on Friday.

Of the 11 golds at stake on Friday Delhi won four, Karnataka and Maharashtra three each and Tamil Nadu one.

For Khushi it was a second successive silver medal after the 200m freestyle while Prachi Tokas earned her first gold in the 800m freestyle on Thursday.

In the morning, Kushi topped the heats in 4:45.18, while Prachi had returned a time of 4:50.62 to be placed fourth.

However the final saw a dramatic turn in fortunes as the Delhi girl after trailing the Karnataka swimmer over the first two laps staged a remarkable recovery to surge ahead and clock 4:37.99.

Khushi returned with 4:38.09, bettering her heat timing but only good enough for a silver. Aanya Wala (Mah) earned the bronze in 4:43.75

In the women's U-21 400m freestyle, Tamil Nadu's Bhavika Dugar claimed her second gold in comfortable fashion clocking 4:41.43. She had won the 800m freestyle title yesterday. Haryana's Jasmine Gurung came second in 4.45.22 while Rutuja Talegaonker (Maharashtra) with 4;50.84 took the bronze. Jasmine had also claimed silver in 200m freestyle

In the boys U-17s, Swadesh Mondal gave Delhi another second gold winning the 400m medley. He timed 4;47.13 for the top podium finish. Shoan Ganguly (Goa) took the silver (4.51.65) while Maharashtra's Saheel Gangote (4:59.20) earned bronze,

In the last event of the day, Delhi's Anurag Singh won a fourth gold for his state with victory in the 1500m free style in the boys U-17 category with a time of 16:40.54, In between Delhi U-17 girls won the 4x100 m freestyle relay in 4:09.36..

Formidable Karnataka bagged three gold through Siva Sridhar, Srihari Nataraj and Nina Venatesh.

Nataraj swept aside the competition on his way to an easy win in the 100m backstroke, one of his pet events. Nataraj had won gold in the 200m freestyle earlier.

Nina Venkatesh, who had earlier won gold in the U-21 women's 50m butterfly, picked up her second title in the 100m backstroke in 1:07.87. Her teammate Suvana Baskar was second (1:07.87) while Pratyasa Ray gave Odisha their first medal by clinching the bronze (1:10.61)

Siva Sridhar bagged the men's U-21 400m individual medley clocking 4:41.75.

Maharashtra also picked up three gold through Vedant Bapna and Yuga Birnale. In the boys U-17, Bapna timed 1:00.16 to finish on top of the podium while Yuga dominated the 100m backstroke in a time of 1:08.46. The host's third gold came at the fag end of the day with their U-21 girls quartet winning the 4x100 freestyle gold in 4;14.21.

Of the 33 medals handed out on the day, Delhi, Karnataka and Maharashtra cornered 23 between themselves,

## **Results:**

### **Boys**

#### **Under-17:**

400m Medley: 1. Swadesh Mondal (Delhi) 4.47.13; 2. Shoan Ganguly (Goa) 4.51.65; 3. Saheel Gangote (Maharashtra) 4.59.20

100m backstroke: 1. Vedant Bapna (Maharashtra) 1.00.16; 2. Tanmay Das (Delhi) 1.00.24; 3. Nanak Moolchandani (Delhi) 1.01.19

1500m freestyle: 1. Anurag Singh (Delhi) 16.40.54; 2. Aneesh Gowda (Karnataka) 17.02.16; 3. Sanjay Jayakrishnan (Karnataka) 17.16.35

#### **Under-21:**

400m Medley: 1. Siva Sridhar (Karnataka) 4.41.75; 2. Vishal Grewal (Delhi) 4.51.43; 3. Yash Verma (Telangana) 4.52.46

100m backstroke: 1. Srihari Nataraj (Karnataka) 57.07; 2. Xavier D'souza (Goa) 58.08; 3. Siva Sridhar (Karnataka) 59.79

### **Girls:**

#### **Under-17:**

400m freestyle: 1. Prachi Tokas (DL) 4.37.99; 2. Khushi Dinesh (Karnataka) 4.38.09; 3. Aanya Wala (Maharashtra) 4.43.75

100m backstroke: 1. Nina Venkatesh (Karnataka) 1.07.87; 2. Suvana Baskar (Karnataka) 1.07.92; 3. Pratyasa Ray (Odisha) 1.10.61

4x100m freestyle: 1. Delhi 4.09.36; 2. Maharashtra 4.11.19; 3. Karnataka 4.13.66

#### **Under-21:**

400m freestyle: 1. Bhavika Sugar (TN) 4.41.43; 2. Jasmine Gurung (Haryana) 4.45.22; 3. Rutuja Talegaonkar (Mah) 4.50.84

100m backstroke: 1. Yuga Birnale (Maharashtra) 1.08.46; 2. Soubritty Mondal (West Bengal) 1.10.52; 3. Nairiti Vyas (Rajasthan) 1.12.91

4x100m freestyle: 1. Maharashtra 4.14.21; Tamil Nadu 4.22.29; 3. West Bengal 4.27.26