



Sharath Achanta, Srikanth Kidambi, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, Manika Batra and Saina Nehwal during their medal winning efforts in CWG at Gold Coast in Australia.

Young and old 'shine bright like a diamond' in India's eventful CWG campaign

GOLD COAST, Apr 15: The exuberance of youth, the endurance of experience and a bit of usual drama that is signature Indian sports -- the country's Commonwealth Games campaign was all this and much more with a medal count that turned out to be the third best ever.

From the teen shooting trio signed off third on the table -- a promotion of two positions from Glasgow and it was a combination of youth and experience which delivered the results.

At 2010 Games in New Delhi, India won 101 medal, including 38 gold while at 2002 Manchester Games India had managed a total of 69 medal of which 30 were gold.

performance might shape up this time. But Manika Batra was determined to ensure that things turn out differently. The 22-year-old, who dropped out of college to focus on her game, justified what many would call a massive risk.

It was by far the best individual performance by an Indian athlete as she ensnared a historic individual gold, a team gold, a women's doubles silver and a mixed doubles bronze.

On the other end of the spectrum were Mary Kom and Sushil. Without a shadow of doubt among the greatest athletes of their respective sports but faced with questions about

their future quite often now, the duo decided to show what it means to turn the clock back.

So, both a 34-year-old Sushil and a 35-year-old Mary Kom gave performances to remember, quite literally schooling their younger opponents just how turn on the style without compromising on the substance.

The sheer diversity of medal winners was a heartwarming aspect of the Games for India. There were medals from squash, although not gold, there were nine medals from boxing, 12 from wrestling, 16 from shooting and nine from weightlifting. (PTI)

Lauding the Pahlwans of various parts of the country, Provincial President National Conference and MLA Nagrota Devender Singh Rana expressed satisfaction over Dangan retaining its sheen and remaining favourite with youngsters.

"It is befitting to watch our wrestlers perform in Jandrah ring during the ongoing World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., series", Mr Rana said, adding this will certainly add up to the enthusiasm among lovers of Dangan in this part of the world as well. He complimented the participating wrestlers and hoped that this will inspire the budding Pahalwans and sharpen their skills.

He said Nagrota Assembly Constituency has emerged as a hub of sports activities in the recent years, especially Dangan and rural games and hoped the talented ones will make their mark at national and international levels.

In this context, he referred to the holding of various events like Kabaddi and wrestling and said this speaks

contested watched by thousands in Jandrah wrestling ring. In an equally keen contest, Mukesh of BSF trounced Gopal and bagged the second prize. In all 37 bouts were held.

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J&K's Nisar wins 107th Annual Dangan Competition Dangan retains sheen; remains favourite sport: Rana

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JANDRAH, Apr 15: Nissar of Jammu and Kashmir today won the title of 107th Annual Dangan Competition by defeating Rippy of Punjab in a keen

about love for sports in the constituency. He also made a reference to the Maruti Suzuki Nagrota Premier League competition organized in recent years and said this has enthused and encouraged the

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Rajasthan beat Bangalore by 19 runs in 'Battle Royale'

BENGALURU, Apr 15: In Jos Buttler (21 off 14), Samson found an able partner as they put on 73 runs in just 37 balls.

Umesh Yadav after his 'man of the match' effort against KXIP was completely off colour going for 59 runs in 4 wicket-less overs. The last three overs yielded 60 runs for the Royals.

Samson first got 16 runs off

ting belter and then managed to restrict the home team to 198 for 6, earning their second victory in three games.

RCB, on the other hand, slumped to their second defeat in three games despite skipper Virat Kohli (57 off 30 balls)'s first half-century of this edition.

It was 'local boy' Shreyas Gopal who removed a rampaging Kohli in the 11th over to turn the match decisively in his team's favour. Kohli's pull shot was taken at deep mid-wicket by Darcy Short, who timed his jump to perfection.

Leg-spinner Gopal, who plays Ranji Trophy for Karnataka, then silenced his 'home crowd' knocking out AB de Villiers, whose poorly executed pull-shot was snapped by Jaydev Unadkat at deep square leg.

Washington Sundar (35 off 19 balls) and Mandeeep Singh (47 no off 25 balls) added 66 runs for the fifth wicket but they were left with an uphill task as the asking rate kept on mounting.

Put into bat, Samson sent the bowlers on a leather-hitting as many as 10 sixes and two fours.

The Kerala scored his half-century off 34 balls, showing one and all why he is so highly rated by India A coach Rahul Dravid.

Samson and Ben Stokes put on 49 runs partnership for fourth wicket in 33 balls, before the England batsman was out scoring 27 off 21 balls with two boundaries and a six. (PTI)

their second win in three games this season. It was the first loss of the season for the Dhoni-led team.

Dhoni's exhibition of powerful hitting was witnessed after the Chris Gayle show. The Jamaican showed that he was far from being a spent force as his second fastest fifty in the IPL helped KXIP put up a healthy total.

The 38-year-old, who twice went unsold at the auction before being picked up by KXIP for his base price, hammered 66 off 33 balls. The other contributions came from the in-form K L Rahul (37 off 22), Mayank Agarwal (30 off 19) and Karun Nair (29 off 17).

Gayle weaved a 96-run opening partnership alongside Rahul setting up the platform for a big score. (PTI)

MMS Memorial Football Tournament

Lone Star trounces SFA by 2-0

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 15: The matches of the ongoing first Mufti Mohammad Sayeed (MMS) Memorial Football Tournament restarted at Synthetic Turf Trc, here today.

Lone Star KFC defeated J&K State Football Academy

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

KXIP escape with four-run win after Dhoni special

MOHALI, Apr 15: A grimacing M S Dhoni pulled off a near impossible win for Chennai Super Kings before Kings XI Punjab scraped through with a dramatic four-run victory in the Indian Premier League here tonight.

Dhoni, battling back pain, took the match into the last over with a blistering 79 off 44 balls. However, his valiant effort did not prove to be enough as CSK ended at 193 for five in response to KXIP's 197 for seven at the PCA Stadium.

The Super Kings needed as many as 76 off the last 30 balls and Dhoni got his team almost over the line with an innings comprising six fours and five sixes.

With 17 needing off the final over, pacer Mohit Sharma did the job for KXIP, who recorded

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JAMMU, Apr 15: KCCC registered convincing victory over Stadium Juniors in Under-16 1st Patel Memorial T20 Invitational Cup, being played at Parade Cricket Ground here.

The event is being organized

under the Supervision of Jung Bahadur Singh Jamwal, President Patel Club and Vijay Sharma, Secretary of the Club.

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Medal Tally					
Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	80	59	59	198
2	England	45	45	46	136
3	India	26	20	20	66
4	Canada	15	40	27	82
5	New Zealand	15	16	15	46
6	South Africa	13	11	13	37
7	Wales	10	12	14	36
8	Scotland	9	13	22	44
9	Nigeria	9	9	6	24
10	Cyprus	8	1	5	14

of Manu Bhaker, Mehuli Ghosh and Anish Bhanwala, the historic table tennis performance by Manika Batra to the arrival of a very confident Neeraj Chopra on the big stage, India had its next crop of stars ready to challenge the world.

The redoubtable Saina Nehwal provided the final day golden touch with her women's singles gold, much like the 2010 Games where her top finish was a shade more significant for it took the overall tally to 100.

With 26 gold, 20 silver and as many bronze medals, India

The likes of M C Mary Kom, Seema Punia and Sushil Kumar showed that experience can never be discounted either, turning back the clock to deliver performances which were nothing short of awe-inspiring.

While the shooters, weightlifters, wrestlers and the boxers were expected to bring home the maximum share of medal, there was a significant new addition to that in table tennis.

After just one bronze in the 2014 edition, there were significant concerns about how the



Winners posing along with dignitaries during IDA Cricket tournament in Jammu.

IDA Jammu branch conducts cricket tournament

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 15: A cricket tournament was today conducted by Indian Dental Association (IDA) Jammu branch at Heritage school cricket ground in which members of IDA, Institute of Dental Sciences and IGGDC took part.

Two matches were played with one in men's section and another in women's section.

The match in women's section was won by IDS Sehora while the IDA Jammu team was victorious in the men's section match.

Dr Sahul Lerra, President IDA Jammu branch appreciated the efforts of all the participants

and his team in conducting this event.

Dr Sarang Khajuria, General Secretary, IDA Jammu branch informed that IDA Jammu is planning to conduct a cricket tournament of larger scale by the end of this year in which teams from different states will be invited.

This event was graced by many eminent dentists of the state including Dr Ritesh Gupta, Dr Vasis Khajuria, Dr Amit Rathore, Dr Shafi, Dr Gaurav Abrol, Dr Nidhi Khajuria, Dr Divya Gupta and many others.

Dr Gaurav Tandon was adjudged as the man of the match.

Army organizes VRL in Uri

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 15: To promote and develop an interest amongst the youth of Kashmir for Sports and Games, Kalgai Volleyball Premier League was organized by the Army at Kalgai village near Uri in Bramulla district.

A police spokesman said that 13 teams from border villages participated enthusiastically in this event from Apr 6 to 14.

He said Young players from the border villages of Kalgai, Jabla, Sultandhaki, Chakra, Salamabad, Isham, Dachi, Kalamkote, Nawa Pora, Jabla, Daradkote, Jhulla and Jabra competed with each other and displayed their all round talent.

"In the finals, Team Salamabad defeated Team Jabla to clinch the Winner's Trophy along with the cash rewards. The locals encouraged and cheered the players throughout the tournament. They also appreciated the initiative by the Army and said that such events give the youth a chance to display their talents and outshine each other," he said.

Tournament was inaugurated in presence of Additional SP, Mohammad Yousuf, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, A Q Mir, Chief Planning Officer, Abdul Hamid, IAS Probationer, S Susse, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Abdul Khahir, Assistant Director Planning Bilal Rashid, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Swaran Singh, Deputy SP HQrs Jaswant Singh, Dy SP DAR Shazia Mir and other officers from civil administration.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Shahid applauded the efforts of organisers and termed sports as the best mean to positively channelize the energy of youth. He said the administration undertook the naive initiative of linking teams with various schemes and programmes including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Swach Bharat Mission, Gram Swaraj Abhiyan apart from various self employment schemes in order to reach out to the people in rural areas and spread awareness about the benefits entailed in these schemes.

During the inaugural event, organisers said that this T20 Cricket Tournament has been named as 'Hindu Muslim Sikh Isai' tournament to spread and promote the message of peace and communal harmony. They mentioned that the tournament also aims to promote the sports culture among youth so as to keep them involved in such activities, which in turn, will keep them away from the menace of drugs. They also informed that the more than a dozen of teams from within and outside the state will participate and compete for trophy and cash prize of Rs 1 Lakh.

The District Administration has extended full cooperation to



DDC Rajouri interacting with players while inaugural T20 Tournament on Sunday.

Dr Shahid