

Three Indians win Golden Target award

Anjum, Apurvi and Elavenil the three shooters to bag the ISSF honour

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Despite competing in the company of two of the world's best shooters Anjum Moudgil and Apurvi Chandel, the young Elavenil Valarivan was able to close the season as the World No.1 in women's air rifle.

She will be given the Golden Target award by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) in Munich, Germany, on December 7.

The Golden Target is the award given by the ISSF as a "tribute to the best athletes of the year according to the annual ranking in each of the

individual Olympic events".

Air rifle shooter Divyansh Singh Panwar and air pistol prodigy Saurabh Chaudhary will also receive the award as the World No. 1 for the season in their events.

Great finish

The 20-year-old Elavenil had wound up the season in brilliant fashion by winning gold in the World Cup final in China. She had earlier won the gold in the World Cup in Rio and was placed fourth in the World Cup in Munich.

The 17-year-old Divyansh won two gold medals in the World Cups in Beijing and Munich, which also fetched him the Olympic quota. He

closed the season with gold in the World Cup final in Putian, China, in both men's air rifle and the mixed air rifle.

Saurabh Chaudhary did not win the individual medal in the World Cup in China, but had won two gold medals in Delhi and Beijing, apart from the bronze in Rio. Saurabh who won the Olympic quota in Delhi in the first World Cup of the season, had also swept all the four World Cup gold medals in mixed air pistol with Manu Bhaker.

Interestingly, India had won three of the No.1 spots in the 12 events, the best by any country. This was the icing on the cake for Indian shooting, which had topped the



Anjum Moudgil. • FILE PHOTO



Apurvi Chandel. • FILE PHOTO: KAMESH SRINIVASAN



Elavenil Valarivan. • FILE PHOTO

medals table in each of the four World Cups for rifle and pistol in Delhi, Beijing, Munich and Rio, apart from the World Cup final in Putian, China.

Wagner's five-for seals innings victory for New Zealand

ENGLAND IN NZ

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

A fiery five-wicket burst from Neil Wagner sealed a comprehensive innings-and-65-run victory for New Zealand over England on the final day of the first Test here on Monday.

England was on the ropes with only two wickets remaining at tea before Sam Curran and Jofra Archer staged a late rally with a 59-run stand for the ninth wicket. Wagner removed Archer and Stuart Broad, the last man in, off successive balls.

England had started the final day at 55 for three, 207 runs away from making New Zealand bat again. In what began as a dogged fight for survival it crept along with a

mere 66 runs off the first 41 overs for the loss of only Joe Root's wicket for 11.

Stokes, on 28, chased a wide Tim Southee delivery that should have been left and chopped it onto his stumps. Wagner accounted for Joe Denly, Ollie Pope and Jos Buttler in quick succes-

sion as England lost four wickets for 17 runs.

New Zealand's celebrations, however, were tempered by injury, with Trent Boult bowling just one over in the morning before leaving the field with a rib problem and taking no further part.



The final nail: Neil Wagner is gung-ho after trapping Stuart Broad in front. • GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

England —1st innings: 353; New Zealand —1st innings: 615 for nine decl.

England —2nd innings: R. Burns c de Grandhomme b Santner 31, D. Sibley c Watling b Santner 12, J. Denly c Watling b Wagner 35, J. Leach c Latham b Santner 0, J. Root c Latham b de Grandhomme 11, B. Stokes b Southee 28, O. Pope c Santner b Wagner 6, J. Buttler b Wagner 0, S. Curran (not out) 29, J. Archer c sub (Henry) b Wagner 30, S. Broad lbw b Wagner 0; Extras (b-12,

lb-1, w-1, nb-1) 15; Total (in 96.2 overs): 197.

Fall of wickets: 1-48, 2-53, 3-55, 4-69, 5-121, 6-132, 7-133, 8-138, 9-197.

New Zealand bowling: Southee 20-4-60-1, Boult 6-4-6-0, de Grandhomme 10-3-15-1, Santner 40-19-53-3, Wagner 19-2-6-4-5, Williamson 1-0-6-0.

Man-of-the-Match: B-J. Watling.

New Zealand won by an innings and 65 runs.

It will be special week in my tennis journey: Jeevan

Says spending time with Paes is an opportunity to learn

DAVIS CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Playing Davis Cup at the age of 30 is not a step forward for Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan but he still feels it will be a "special week" in his tennis journey when he faces Pakistan.

He firmly believes that winning against a weaker opponent would not take anything away from his debut.

Jeevan is now set to make his debut alongside the legendary Leander Paes.

"We have very good doubles players in our country. We have two guys in top-50. I don't look at it as holding back. Tennis is a journey. I am 30-years-old, I enjoy playing on Tour, regardless of



All set: The Indian team is all smiles as it gets ready to depart for Kazakhstan. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

whether I get to play Davis Cup or not. But it is a special feeling to play for the tri-colour. And it's not a step for-

ward, it's part of the journey," Jeevan told PTI in an interview.

"I am excited to be part of

the squad. It's any player's dream to represent the country, it's the highest honour for a player to represent the

country."

The big-serving Saketh Myneni is also in the squad but indications are that it will be Jeevan, who will play alongside Paes in the doubles.

The diminutive southpaw said spending time in the company of Paes is an opportunity to learn.

"I am hoping to take new lessons. On tennis courts he is a very smart player. The way he looks at the game is very different to the players I have played with. Athletically, he is very gifted, he is still one of the best movers. Even at this age, he is still amazing mover.

"I am not a big guy, so I move very athletically, I need to maximise those moves I can make at the net. I can re-

late to a lot of things, he talks about like how to move when at the net. So, definitely learning a lot from him," said Jeevan.

Asked how his game complements Paes' since both are good at the net, Jeevan said their left-right combination would trouble the opponents.

"We both have trust in each other's ability to put away balls at the net. The key is serving with left-right combination, that's a big advantage we have.

"I have done well with my right hand partners in the past, I have done well on ad-court too. Bopanna and I won the Chennai Open with me on the ad-court, so that's a familiar territory for me."

Archer disturbed by racial abuse

CONTROVERSY

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

New Zealand Cricket bosses said on Monday that they will personally apologise to England fast bowler Jofra Archer after he was racially abused during the first Test here.

The Barbados-born Archer, considered one of the most promising all-rounders in world cricket, tweeted that he was disturbed to hear racial insults "whilst battling to help save my team".

The 24-year-old featured in a late show of resistance with Sam Curran in a 59-run stand for the ninth wicket before New Zealand wrapped up the match for an innings and 65-run victory.

"A bit disturbing hearing racial insults whilst battling to help save my team, the crowd was amazing this week except for that one guy," Archer tweeted.

New Zealand Cricket's (NZC) public affairs manager Richard Boock said there is "zero tolerance towards



Jofra Archer. • GETTY IMAGES

abusive or offensive language" at all cricket venues in New Zealand.

NZC "will contact Mr. Archer tomorrow to apologise for the unacceptable experience, and to promise increased vigilance in the matter when the teams next meet in Hamilton," Boock said.

He said they will also examine CCTV footage in an attempt to identify the person responsible and will refer any relevant information to the police.

The second Test between New Zealand and England starts in Hamilton on Friday.

Unbeaten Goa takes on Jamshedpur

ISL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MARGAO

FC Goa takes on Jamshedpur FC knowing it must win and stay within touching distance of the leader in the Indian Super League (ISL) here on Tuesday.

Goa is unbeaten so far and has eight points from four matches. A win will take the team to the top of the table, but head coach Sergio Lobera will be concerned with the fact that his side has won consecutive matches this season.

Goa followed up a victory with a draw, something which the Spaniard would be keen to address.

Goa will miss the services of midfielder Hugo Boumous and winger Seiminlen Doungel due to suspensions the pair have to serve for their involvement in a tussle during the game against NorthEast United earlier this month. Goa will rely on Ahmed Jahouh and Lenny Rodrigues in the middle with Brandon Fernandes and Jackichand Singh expected to make forays from the flanks.

'Priority is to get Elo rating to above-2600'

Praggnanandhaa has been preparing for London Chess Classic

CHESS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

R. Praggnanandhaa, India's second youngest Grandmaster, has been enjoying his time at home since taking part in the World u-20 chess championship in New Delhi last month.

The reigning World youth (u-18) champion has been preparing for the London Chess Classic, which begins on November 29. The 14-year-old is confident of doing well, and said: "I am playing in the open category and not in the closed tournament where (Magnus) Carlsen and others will participate. I will be seeded either fifth or sixth, and I want to win the tournament."

The GM said his priority is to get his Elo rating to above-2600 (currently he is at 2586) and ensure it doesn't fall drastically.

"Maintaining my Elo rating is equally important," said the prodigy after toying and beating 10 amateur players from *The Hindu* in 45 minutes in a fun-filled session of simultaneous chess at



Grandmaster at work: R. Praggnanandhaa playing chess at *The Hindu* office in Chennai on Monday. • K. PICHUMANI

its premises here on Monday.

After the London Classic, Praggnanandhaa will take part in the Sunway Open at Sitges, Spain, from December 12 to 22.

The youngster, who has

been training under GM R.B. Ramesh since 2014, has made rapid strides and holds his coach in high regard. "It has been amazing. He has taught me a lot in terms of middle and end games," he said.

He helped the farmer get FarMore



Sangram and Varsha clinch gold

NATL. SHOTGUN

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Sangram Dahiya and Varsha Varman won the gold in men's and women's double trap in the 63rd National shotgun championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Monday.

A World Cup Final silver medalist at the same venue in 2017, Sangram shot 142 out of 150, to beat former World champion Ankur Mittal by five points.

Varsha Varman won the women's gold with a 97. After rounds of 24, 23 and 22, she finished strongly with 28, which saw her beat Manisha Keer to the gold by four

points. **The results: Men:** 1. Sangram Dahiya 142; 2. Ankur Mittal 137; 3. Prithvi Singh Chahal 135. **Team:** 1. Haryana 402; 2. Punjab 364; 3. Madhya Pradesh 362.

Junior men: 1. Mayank Shokeen 122; 2. Rajdeep Sodhi 119; 3. Mohd. Saleem Ahmed 119. **Team:** 1. Punjab 336; 2. Rajasthan 336; 3. Uttar Pradesh 306.

Women: 1. Varsha Varman 97; 2. Manisha Keer 93; 3. Mahima Vishwakarma 92. **Team:** 1. Madhya Pradesh 275; 2. Rajasthan 225; 3. Punjab 222.

Junior women: 1. Manisha Keer 93; 2. Bhavya Tripathi 78; 3. Ayesha Khan 75. **Team:** 1. Delhi 212; 2. Tamil Nadu 173; 3. Rajasthan 166.

Veterans: 1. Yadavendra Singh 116; 2. D.V. Seetharama Rao 108; 3. Rohit Panchal 85.



On top: Varsha Varman who won the women's double trap gold. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lakshya wins Scottish Open title

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GLASGOW

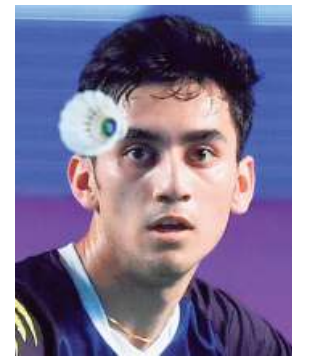
Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen claimed his fourth title in three months, bagging the Scottish Open with a thrilling win over Brazil's Ygor Coelho in the men's singles summit clash here.

The top-seeded Indian overcame his Brazilian opponent 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 in a 56-minute final on Sunday night.

The 18-year-old from Uttarakhnad has now clinched three titles out of the four tournaments he has played since September — SaarLorLux Open, Dutch Open, and Belgian International.

After losing in the second round of the Irish Open, Lakshya made amends this week and dished out some superb performances right from the start.

The Indian began his campaign with a straight-



Lakshya Sen. • FILE PHOTO

game win over Austria's Luka Wraber, before defeating compatriot Kiran George to reach the quarterfinals.

The World No. 41 then recorded another straight-game win over sixth-seed Brian Yang before seeing off France's Christo Popov in the semifinals.

After this win, Lakshya will break into the top-40 in the BWF rankings and inch closer to a direct qualification in the top grade 2 events.

Srikanth also pulls out of PBL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Former World No. 1 K. Srikanth has pulled out of the Premier Badminton League to be played from January 20 next year.

A day after London Olympics bronze medalist Saina Nehwal took to Twitter to announce her decision not to play, Srikanth posted his decision on Instagram on Monday.

"It is a tough road ahead. Need to go full throttle and fulfil the expectations that lie on me," he said. "Hence, I won't be playing in the PBL



K. Srikanth. • FILE PHOTO

this season to focus more on international events. Wish Blrraptors (Bengaluru Raptors) all the very best and hope for a smashing season this year as well."