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**Indian glory: Jitu Rai and Amanpreet Singh take Gold and Silver
in the 50m Pistol Men event in New Delhi**

With three events scheduled to take place on Day 5, India claimed all of the headlines, by marking a memorable double in the final event of the Rifle/Pistol disciplines. Thailand and the United States also claimed one Gold each, thanks to Naphaswan Yangpaiboon in the women's 25m Pistol and Kimberly Rhode in the women's Skeet.

New Delhi (IND), 1 March 2017 - Three events took place today at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, where Thailand, India and the United States of America all celebrated a victory.

25m Pistol Women

Yangpaiboon Naphaswan of Thailand (28) won today's 25m Pistol Women event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi (IND).

The two-time World Cup medalist shot at a different pace today. After 40 shots, she ranked first with 32 hits and had already collected a safe 6-hit advantage on her followers. Clearing the last two final series with 3 and again 3 hits, she scored a total of 38 hits and turned out to be unreachable by her opponents.

2014 World and Asian Champion Zhang Jingjing of the People's Republic of China (28) followed her in 2nd place, securing the Silver with 30 hits. The 2016 Junior World Cup Champion and European Champion, Michelle Skeries of Germany (20) making her first appearance in an ISSF World Cup event, claimed the Bronze with 27 hits.

Zhang and Skeries had survived a three-way shoot-off just minutes before, as they tied the second German finalist Doreen Vennekamp at the 5th place elimination.

21-year-old first-time participant Vennekamp missed a determinant hit there, taking the 5th place with 21 hits, behind Rio 2016 Bronze medalist Heidi Diethelm Gerber of Switzerland (47) who did not make it to the podium today, finishing in 4th place with 23 hits.

Tien Chia Chen of Chinese Taipei (33) and Konishi Yukari of Japan (38) were the first to face an elimination, as they tied in 8th place after the 20th shot with 9 points each. The first elimination had therefore to be decided by a shoot-off, which tuned in favour of the Japanese athlete.

While Tien was left in 8th place, Konishi kept on shooting in the final, scoring a great 5-hit series to tie the next athlete on the scoreboard, Lin Yuemei of the People's Republic of China, in 7th place. This time, three shoot-off series were needed to divide the two athletes, with Lin winning the tie-breaker and Konishi eventually taking the 7th place with a final score of 14 hits.

Lin Yuemei, who had already won the women's 10m Air Pistol final held on the 26th of February here in New Delhi, was eliminated one series later, taking the 6th place with 16 hits after shot 30.

50m Pistol Men

Jitu Rai brought India atop of the ISSF podium in the 50m Pistol Men event, for the joy of the spectators following the event at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.

Like he did at yesterday's Air Pistol final, when he won a Bronze medal, Rai had a rough start and after a couple of frustrating series, he had to fight on the edge not to be eliminated in 6th and 5th place. Then, gearing up, he nailed a series of 10s, climbing up the scoreboard shot after shot, coming closer to his teammate Amanpreet Singh holding the lead.

After shot 20, he was more than 4 points far from the first place. Two shots later, he was just 0.3 behind Singh, whom he finally overtook at shot 23, moving atop of the scoreboard. Accompanied by the excited reactions of the crowd, he fired a great 10.5 on his last shot, securing India's first gold medal at this ISSF World Cup in New Delhi with an overall score of 230.1 points, the new World Record.

First-time finalist Amanpreet Singh (29) completed the triumph of the home team by claiming Silver with 226.9 points.

Rai and Singh left 33-year-old Vahid Golkhandan of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 3rd place with 208.0 points. Golkhandan defended his first ISSF medal from the 2010 ISSF World Champ Tomoyuki Matsuda of Japan (41) who closed today's final in 4th place with 188.4 points. Matsuda had won the men's 10m Air Pistol final yesterday.

Vladimir Issachenko of Kazakhstan (34) finished the match in 5th place with 169.1 points. The best World Cup placement of the 2002 Junior World Champion in this event had been a 5th place in 2012.

Japan's Sonoda Yoshinobu (34) shot a disappointing 4.6 in his first competition series that compromised his first World Cup final match, and he was the first athlete to be eliminated, taking 8th place with 102.0 points. Atallah Alanazi of Saudi Arabia (28) followed Sonoda at the next elimination, placing in 7th with 129.2 points, just 0.1 point far from the 6th place, eventually taken by 24-year-old Johnathan Wong Guanjie of Malaysia with 148.7 points.

Skeet Women

Last year's ISSF Season closed with United States' Kimberly Rhode atop the Skeet Women podium in Rome (ITA), with the ISSF World Cup Final trophy in her hands and the Gold medal around her neck.

A few month later, miles away from the Italian capital, she's still there, on the first step of the podium at the ISSF World Cup Stage 1 in New Delhi (IND). And the medal that lays on her is still the brightest one.

Competing under the new ISSF Rules in the first competition of the season didn't seem to be a problem for the 37-year-old American, who distanced all of her rival thanks to an impressive series of 33 consecutive targets that she crushed midway through the final, while other athletes were busy trying to avoid elimination.

After that performance, Rhode found herself sitting on a comfortable 3-hits lead over Thailand's Sutiya Jiewchaloemmit, and in the following last round of 10 targets, she managed that gap without any further problem, keeping the 30-year-old Thai shooter at a safe distance and concluding with 56 total hits, while Jiewchaloemmit secured the Silver medal with 51.

Alongside Rhode and Jiewchaloemmit, the podium was completed by Chloe Tipple of New Zealand, who pocketed the Bronze medal with 42 target hits.

The 25-year-old, whose previous best result in a World Cup was a 25th place in Baku (AZE) last year, missed four of her last ten targets, sliding in 3rd place and leaving Jiewchaloemmit to shoot the final round of targets against Rhode.

The second United States' final participant, 26-year-old Caitlin Connor, barely miss the podium and concluded 4th with 35 hits. According to the new ISSF Rules, indeed, ties in the finals are meant to be broken by the qualification ranking, and since Connor qualified for the match with 72 hits against Jiewchaloemmit's 73, the American had to be eliminated.

In spite of crushing all of her last 13 targets, Cyprus' Andri Eleftheriou (32) couldn't avoid elimination, and finished in 5th place with 25 target hits, followed by the 2016 Olympic Gold medalist Diana Bacosi of Italy who missed three of her last six targets, and left the match in 6th place with 14 hits.

The ISSF World Cup Stage 1 in New Delhi will conclude tomorrow with the last final: the Skeet Men taking place at 2:30 pm (UTC+5:30). The final will be streamed live on www.issf-sports.org and on the ISSF [official Facebook page](#).

News and updates about the competition are available on the [ISSF website](#) and on its social media profiles: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Weibo](#) and [Youku](#).

Notes for the editors:

The International Shooting Sport Federation is the governing body of the Olympic Shooting events, and it has over 160 affiliated National Federations worldwide. Shooting is an Olympic sport since the very first edition of the modern Olympic Games, Athens 1896. Find out more about the International Shooting Sport Federation at www.issf-sports.org.

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