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The People's Republic of China takes the last junior gold in Sydney,
finishes atop the medal table

Sydney (AUS), 28 March 2018 - After kicking off in Guadalajara (MEX) with the first stage of the 2018 ISSF World Cup Series, the shooting sport season continued in Sydney (AUS), where the first ISSF Junior World Cup of the season closed today with the last two finals.

25m Pistol Women Junior

The competition day opened with another gold awarded to the Indian National Team, as Muskan Muskan secured the brightest medal in the 25m Pistol Women Junior event.

The 16-year-old shooter — who placed 4th at last year's ISSF Junior World Championship in Suhl (GER) — took the lead at the end of the sixth round, when she nailed a perfect 5-hit series and found herself sitting on a 3-point advantage over her closest rival, People's Republic of China's Qin Sihang (16).

Muskan successfully defended that lead throughout the rest of the final, taking gold with 35 hits, while Qin finished with 34 and the silver medal around her neck. It's the first ISSF medal for both the Indian and the Chinese junior shooter.

The bronze medal was awarded to Thailand's 16-year-old Kanyakorn Hirunphoem, currently ranked 62nd in the world in this event and bearing a six-start World Cup experience. The Thai shooter — silver medalist in the Air Pistol event four days ago — finished with 26 hits and pocketed her second medal in Sydney.

A second Indian finalist — 16-year-old Manu Bhaker — placed in 4th position with 18 hits, surviving a shoot-off at the end of the sixth series against Zhu Siying (16) of the People's Republic of China. Zhu then took 6th place with 12 hits, while her teammate Xiao Jiaruixuan (15) placed 5th with 14 hits, in spite of a 2-point penalty given to her for early loading.

Finally, two first-time participants — India's 18-year-old Arunima Gaur and People's Republic of China's Li Xue — respectively took 7th place with 8 hits and 8th place with 7.

The top of the team podium was taken by India's Bhaker, Muskan and Devanshi Rana, while their country-mates Gaur, Mahima Turhi Agrawal and Tanu Rawal secured silver. Thailand's Hirun-phoem, Viramon Kidarn and Luxciga Srinivoravong placed 3rd.

Skeet Men Junior

In the closing event of the Junior World Cup, Dou Xuyang of the People's Republic of China made a fantastic debut on the international scene, taking gold in the Skeet Men Junior and signing a new Junior World Record in this event.

The 19-year-old shooter literally dominated the contest, missing only two of his 60 targets and raising the World Record bar to 58 hits, only one hit behind the senior mark.

The two remaining medals were awarded to two Italian shooters, Matteo Chiti (20) and Niccolò Sodi (19), who couldn't match the pace set by Dou and respectively placed in 2nd and 3rd position. Chiti took silver with 52 hits out of 60 targets, besting the 3rd place he obtained at last year's Junior World Cup in Porpetto (ITA); Sodi, instead, pocketed the bronze medal in his international debut, crushing 42 out of his 50 clays.

After entering the final with the highest qualification score, Italy's third final participant — 19-year-old Elia Sdruccioli — took 4th place with 33 hit targets out of 40.

Also participating in the first ISSF competition of his career, Great Britain's Luke George Young (18) was the first athlete eliminated from the match after 20 targets, followed ten clays later by India's 19-year-old Anant Jeet Singh Naruka. Young finished with 11 hits out of 20 targets, while Naruka crushed 24 out of 30.

Italy's Sdruccioli, Chiti and Sodi also climbed atop the team podium pocketing the gold medal, while India's Naruka, Ayush Rudraraju and Gurnihal Singh Garcha won silver, and People's Republic of China's Dou, Yu Lingfeng and Luo Hongzhao took bronze.

Medals and records

India and the People's Republic of China absolutely dominated the competition, bagging nine gold medals each and taking the top-two positions in the final medal standings. The Chinese National Team placed 1st, adding eight silvers and eight bronzes to their nine gold medals, while India finished in 2nd place with nine golds, five silvers and eight bronzes.

Italy followed in 3rd position with three gold medals, one silver and two bronzes, while the only gold remaining was taken by the host country, Australia.

Seven new Junior World Records were set during the competition:

- Du Xuyang of the People's Republic of China hit 58 targets in the Skeet Men Junior event
- Zhang Jueming, Cheng Zhipeng and Pan Junchen of the People's Republic of China scored 1733 team points in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men Junior event
- Wang Zhehao of the People's Republic of China scored 242.5 points in the 10m Air Pistol Men Junior event
- Manu Bhaker, Devanshi Rana and Mahima Turhi Agrawal of India scored 1693 team points in the 10m Air Pistol Women Junior event
- Erica Sessa and Teo Petroni of Italy hit 38 targets in the Trap Mixed Team event

- Zhang Ting, Duan Yuwei and Gao Wendi of the People's Republic of China hit 307 team targets in the Trap Women Junior event
- Elavenil Valarivan Elavenil, Zeena Khitta and Shreya Agrawal of India scored 1876.5 team points in the 10m Air Rifle Women Junior event

Also, five new Junior Qualification World Records were set in Sydney:

- Zhu Yingjie and Liu Yuqi of the People's Republic of China scored 838.3 points in the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event
- Manu Bhaker and Anmol Anmol of India scored 770 points in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event
- Kanyakorn Hirunphoem of Thailand scored 576 points in the 10m Air Pistol Women Junior event
- Erica Sessa and Teo Petroni of Italy hit 133 targets in the Trap Mixed Team Junior event
- Elavenil Valarivan Elavenil of India scored 631.4 points in the 10m Air Rifle Women Junior event

The ISSF season will resume next month with the ISSF World Cup Stage 2, taking place in Changwon (KOR) from April 20th to April 30th.

The competition will be streamed live on the [ISSF website](#), on the Federation's [Livestream channel](#), on its official [Facebook page](#) and on the [Olympic Channel](#).

Live results of the competitions, news and updates will be available on www.issf-sports.org and on all ISSF social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Weibo](#) and [Youku](#).

For the 25m Pistol Women Junior complete results [click here](#).

For the Skeet Men Junior complete results [click here](#).

For the final medal standings [click here](#).

For editorial photos [click here](#).

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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