

## Karthik faces big test as KKR takes on Gambhir-led DD

**KOLKATA, APR 15 /-** Skipper Dinesh Karthik will face a big test when a resurgent Kolkata Knight Riders lock horns with a resurgent Delhi Daredevils, led by double title winning former KKR skipper Gautam Gambhir, in a much-anticipated IPL clash here tomorrow. After back-to-back defeats, Karthik-led KKR will be desperate for a revival, while Delhi will hope to continue their momentum after snapping a two-match losing streak in style against Mumbai Indians yesterday. Kolkata had made a winning start to their campaign against Royals Challenger Bangalore but successive defeats to Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the next two matches have put them in a spot of bother. Delhi, on the other hand, lost to Kings XI Punjab in their opener and then went down against Rajasthan Royals in a rain-soaked match. But the Gambhir-led side bounced back in style against Mumbai with Jason Roy smashing an unbeaten 91 in his debut match for DD. DD's Kolkata leg fixture means their Team India speedster Mohammed Shami is set to return to his home town for the first time after his wife had accused him of infidelity and domestic abuse last month a controversy that had hogged the headlines. In the latest development, Jahan has filed a case at Alipore court on April 10 and Shami has been summoned within 15 days. Shami has turned out in all the three matches for DD and a team official said there's no question of his availability. On the field, it will be Gambhir who will have the upper hand despite DD's poor 8-12 head-to-head record against KKR.

**Squad:**  
Kolkata Knight Riders: Dinesh Karthik (c and WK), Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Chris Lynn, Robin Uthappa, Kuldeep Yadav, Piyush Chawla, Nitish Rana, Prasadh Krishna, Shivam Mavi, Mitchell Johnson, Shubman Gill, R Vinay Kumar, Rinku Singh, Cameron Delport, Javon Seales, Apoorv Wankhade, Ishank Jaggi and Tom Curran.

**Delhi Daredevils:** Gautam Gambhir (c), Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer, Chris Morris, Glenn Maxwell, Kagiso Rabada, Amit Mishra, Shabbaz Nadeem, Vijay Shankar, Rahul Tewatia, Mohammad Shami, Trent Boult, Colin Munro, Daniel Christian, Jason Roy, Naman Ojha, Prithvi Shaw, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, Avesh Khan, Abhishek Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Harshal Patel, Manjot Kalra, Sandeep Lamichhane, Sayan Ghosh. (PTI)

Match starts 2000 IST.

# Manika claims mixed doubles bronze, Sharath settles for bronze in singles

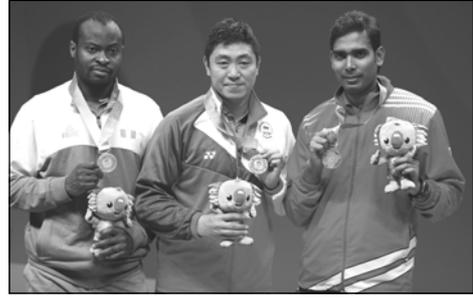


Sathiyan Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra of India —REUTERS

**GOLD COAST, APR 15 /-** Manika Batra's sensational run at the Commonwealth Games fetched her another medal as she teamed up with G Sathiyan to collect the mixed doubles bronze on Sunday, thereby claiming a medal in every event she competed in Gold Coast. Batra and Sathiyan defeated the compatriot senior duo of Achantha Sharath Kamal and Mouma Das 11-6 11-2 11-4 to claim the

honours in the bronze medal play-off. This was Batra's fourth medal of the Games. She had earlier won a historic women's singles gold and was also a part of the top-finish women's team. In women's doubles, she won a silver with Mouma Das. Meanwhile, Sharath Kamal clinched his third medal of the Games by winning a bronze in men's singles after beating Samuel Walker of England 4-1 (11-7

11-9 9-11 11-6 12-10). He was part of the gold-winning men's team event and also clinched a silver in men's doubles with Sathiyan. A 10-member Indian table tennis team secured 8 (3 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze) medals in these Games, which turned out to be the best-ever medal haul in the history of the Games. Batra said she hoped "to stay together as a mixed pair (with Sathiyan) and play together



Gold medalist Gao Ning of Singapore is flanked by silver medalist Quadri Aruna of Nigeria and bronze medalist Sharath Achantha of India —REUTERS

at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics". "We've been playing our very best but there are not many tournaments for mixed pairs. We've been training in Portugal trying out different pairs. This is our first medal as a mixed doubles combination," she said. Sathiyan said a bronze medal each should be awarded to both finalists in table tennis, just like in some other sports. "You start off with a round 64 and you

end up here in the most terrible and impossible match. You've reached the semifinals and you can't do that without winning matches," he said. On beating his senior doubles partner Sharath, Sathiyan said, "It was very hard mentally to play against my teammate. We would have been happier if we had been playing in a gold medal match because at least you both get a medal." (PTI)

## EB 'not favourites' against FC Goa in Super Cup semis

**BHUBANESWAR, APR 15 /-** East Bengal coach Khalid Jamil dismissed talk about the Kolkata football club having an advantage over FC Goa in the Super Cup semi-final, stressing "its 11v11 on the field." Reacting to comments about five Goa players staying

suspended for the match, Jamil stated: "In football it's all played on the pitch. You can never take things lightly. It's all about that specific day," he stressed. "FC Goa are a very good side and they will surely make it difficult for us." Central defender Eduardo

Ferreira, however, admitted that there is "some pressure" on the red and golds. "Every match is important and comes with its own pressure. It's not going to be any different tomorrow," Eduardo Ferreira maintained. "If you want to be successful you need to work hard and

press harder all throughout. We won't be taking it easy in training. It's another final for us. We need to stay concentrated." Jamil, who was a player under Goa coach Derrick Pereira in the dream Mahindra United squad, rated his former coach very highly. "Derrick is a great motivator. His teams are always defensively very strong," Jamil certified. Meanwhile, Pereira informed that his players "will put up their best."

He has five players suspended and there are also some injuries which have hit us hard. We have 14 players at the moment including 2 goalkeepers and a lot of things are going on in my mind. Pereira stated. "I am confident that whoever takes the field tomorrow will give their best. We have had a very good team throughout the season. Tomorrow is their chance to grab it. If you need to achieve results you need to perform," he added. "Obviously, the understanding and combination play on the pitch may be lacking as some of them may be playing for the first time but we have trained together for long. The players are all professionals and know how to react to situations. East Bengal have a full squad but it won't be easy for them." Reiterating his coach's views, Pratesh Shirodkar, player FC Goa said: "We accept this challenge. All the players who haven't played so far are confident and we will work hard for a victory."



East Bengal face FC Goa in their Super Cup 2018 semifinal encounter in Bhubaneswar on Monday

## Super Cup 2018: AIFF suspends six players of Jamshepur and FC Goa for involvement in brawl during match

**NEW DELHI, APR 15 /-** The All India Football Federation's (AIFF) Disciplinary Committee on Sunday handed a two-match suspension on the six players who were sent off by the referee for their involvement in a brawl during the Super Cup quarter-final match between Jamshepur FC and FC Goa in Bhubaneswar on 12 April. FC Goa's Mandar Rao Dessai in action against Jamshepur FC. Twitter @FCGoaOfficial

FC Goa's Mandar Rao Dessai in action against Jamshepur FC. Twitter @FCGoaOfficial A brawl had broken out between the players of both the teams at the end of the first half and the referee had sent off six players (3 from each side) from the field of play. Subrata Paul, Haitian Kervens Belfort, Anas Edathodika from Jamshepur FC and Brandon Fernandes, Spanish duo of Bruno Pinheiro and Sergio Marin from FC Goa were shown the red card. The second half of the match, which FC Goa won 5-1, was played with eight players taking the field from each side. The two-match suspension would be in addition to the automatic suspension for the subsequent game on account of the red card shown by the referee. "The AIFF Disciplinary Committee has imposed sanctions upon each of Jamshepur FC players Subrata Paul, Anas Edathodika, Kervens Belfort being a suspension of two consecutive matches, over and in addition to the automatic suspensions of the subsequent match imposed under the AIFF Disciplinary Code, be it under Her Super Cup or otherwise played under AIFF regulations." The AIFF said in a statement. "During the suspension period, bans all of them from the dressing room/substitutes bench as well as the stadium," it added.

## Satwik-Chirag win historic men's badminton doubles silver at CWG

**GOLD COAST, APR 15 /-** Satwik Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty claimed India's first ever medal in men's doubles after settling for a silver at the 21st Commonwealth Games badminton competition in Gold Coast on Sunday. Satwik and Chirag lost 12-21 16-21 to Rio Olympics bronze medalist English pair of Marcus Ellis and Chris Langridge in a 39-minute men's doubles final at the Carrara Sports Arena.

With the silver clinched by Satwik and Chirag, India ended their highly successful badminton campaign with six medals, which include the mixed team event gold. Earlier, Saina Nehwal clinched her second CWG gold medal after defeating P Y Sindhu in the women's singles final, while Kidambi Srikanth settled for a silver after losing narrowly to three-time Olympic silver medalist Lee Chong Wei in men's singles final. On Saturday, Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy bagged a bronze medal in the women's doubles event. At 17 and 20 respectively, Satwik and Chirag form a formidable pair. It was the Tata Open India International Challenge win that brought them into limelight in 2016. They also won in Mauritius and Bangladesh, but their biggest win came last year when they clinched the Vietnam Open International Challenge. They had managed to topple former Olympic and world champion Markis Kido and his partner Hendra Gunawan en route the title. They also qualified for the Glasgow World Championships and managed to reach the quarterfinals at the Korea Open and the French Open. This year, Satwik and Chirag made it to the semifinals at Indonesia Masters and All England quarterfinals. (PTI)

## Defending champs Pallikal-Chinappa settle for women's doubles silver

**GOLD COAST, APR 15 /-** India ended their Commonwealth Games campaign with two silver medals after Dipika Pallikal and Joshna Chinappa went down fighting in the women's doubles final in Gold Coast on Sunday. Pallikal and Chinappa, who had won a historic gold in Glasgow Games four years ago, fell short against the New Zealand combine of Joelle King and Amanda-Landers Murphy losing 9-11, 8-11 in the title clash. The Indians were visibly upset with some of the calls taken by the referees. Pallikal had also questioned the quality of refereeing in the mixed doubles final yesterday when she and Saurav Ghosal lost to Australia's Donna Urquhart and Cameron Pilley to settle for silver.



Silver medalist Srikanth Kidambi of India waves during the medal ceremony —REUTERS

The first game 21-19 in the 25 minutes. A slight moment of drama came in the second game when it seemed Lee had struck the shuttle twice to claim a point but was not penalised for it and the match went on despite Srikanth's protest. Lee's lackadaisical approach improved considerably thereafter and after leading 11-9 at the interval, he displayed some of the many stylish shots in his armoury to draw level and stay afloat in the high-intensity match, which was as much about elegance as sheer power. Leading 9-5 in the decider, Lee went for a change of racquet and it only got him better results as he grabbed an 11-5 lead to take the psychological upper hand. The smashes that were landing outside in the opening game became just the bit accurate and difficult for the Indian to retrieve. (PTI)

## Nagarkoti ruled out of remainder of IPL season

**KOLKATA, APR 15 /-** In a fresh injury blow to Kolkata Knight Riders, young pacer Kamlesh Saurashtra was on Saturday ruled out of the remainder of IPL season due to a foot injury.



Karnataka seamer Prasadh Krishna was announced as the replacement for the injured World Cup winning pacer who was bought at a price of Rs 3.2 crore.

One of the finds of the India's U-19 World Cup triumph, Nagarkoti sustained the injury before the tournament but the announcement came only on Saturday as KKR lost a second pacer this season after Australian spearhead Mitchell Starc. The 22-year-old Prasadh has played 23 matches so far since 2015, three in the T20 format but his record in the 50-over format has been impressive. Prasadh has 33 wickets in 19 matches at an average of 21.27 and an economy rate of 4.74, with a best show of 3/37 in Karnataka's Vijay Hazare Trophy against Saurashtra in February. KKR also bolstered their support staff with the inclusion of Mumbai all-rounder Abhishek Nayyar who mentored skipper Dinesh Karthik in the past. "Pleased to welcome Nagarkoti to the support staff. The younger talent of the team will particularly benefit from Nayyar's experience and mentoring." KKR CEO Venky Mysore tweeted, without specifying Nayyar's role. (PTI)

# Commonwealth Games 2018: Rly athletes win 10 out of 26 golds for India

**MUMBAI, APR 15 /-** Indian Railways today said that it was a matter of pride that 40 per cent of gold medals for India, 10 out of 26 in the recently concluded Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, were won by Railway athletes. The Indian contingent, with 66 medals in all, turned in its finest performance ever at the CWG games standing third in the medals tally. Railway officials today said that the results convincingly

proved the public transporter's sports motto "Think Sports, Think Railways". "It is a matter of great pride that forming 25 per cent of the Indian contingent, Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) athletes clinched 40 per cent of the total golds won by India. Railway athletes won 10 Golds, one Silver and four Bronze medals in the CWG Games," Rekha Yadav Executive Director and RSPB Secretary, said in a statement. The

RSPB, this year, will be celebrating 90 years of its inception, said officials. She said that 49 athletes from RSPB participated in the CWG 2018 Games in disciplines like weightlifting, wrestling, hockey, athletics, basketball and gymnastics. "Almost the entire women's hockey team comprised Railway girls," she said. All seven wrestlers from the RSPB won medals and came back with a 100 per cent strike rate, including five Gold

medals won by Sushil Kumar, Rahul Awar, Sumit Malik, Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, and Sakshi Malik and Kiran Bisnoi bagging a Bronze each. In weightlifting, six out of 10 Railways lifters won a medal for India.

While Mirabai Chanu, Sangita Chanu, Poonam Yadav, Satish Sivani and Ravi Kumar won gold, Pradip Singh bagged a Silver. Pugnist Manoj Kumar, of the Railways,

won a Bronze medal and Navyeet Dhillon put up a spirited performance winning a Bronze in the Discus throw. "The RSPB not only provides a sustainable source of livelihood through its liberal recruitment policies, but also nurtures sportspersons with round the year training, camps, diet, medical support, even during their best playing years," Yadav said.

She said that excellent infrastructure spread across its network nation-

wide, and a stellar team of in-house coaches and support staff, had given the RSPB an unparalleled ecosystem for 29 sporting disciplines under its belt. "We have single-handedly supported the rise of women in sports in the country. We have empowered and encouraged young girls to pursue sports," she said. Yadav informed that the RSPB was one of the first organisations to raise a women's wrestling team in India. (PTI)