

# Mirabai wins historic gold in Weightlifting World C'ships

## SAIKHOM MIRABAI CHANU

Gold medalist, 2017 World Weightlifting Championship  
(women's 48 kg category)



**DATE OF BIRTH**  
Aug. 6, 1994 (23 years old)

**BIRTHPLACE**  
Imphal East, Manipur

**HEIGHT**  
1.50 m (4' 11")

**WEIGHT**  
48 kg

**BEGAN WEIGHTLIFTING**  
2007 at Khuman  
Lampak Sports Complex  
(Imphal)

**INSPIRATION**  
Kunjarani Devi

**EMPLOYED WITH**  
Indian Railways

**OTHER LAURELS**

- Gold, 2016 South Asian Games
- Silver, 2014 Commonwealth Games, Glasgow (women's 48 kg category)
- Gold, South Asian Junior Games
- Gold, 2011 International Youth Championship
- Best Lifter, 2013 Junior National Championship, Guwahati

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Became second Indian woman (after Karnam Malleswari) to win gold at the 2017 IWF World Weightlifting Championship in Anaheim, USA
- Broke Malleswari's record after 22 years
- Lifted a **new national record** of 194 kg — 85 (snatch) + 109 (clean & jerk) — in the women's 48 kg category.

**NEW DELHI, NOV 30**—/ Saikhom Mirabai Chanu on Thursday became the first Indian in over two decades to claim a gold medal at the World Weightlifting Championship in Anaheim, USA, exorcising the ghosts of her forgettable outing at the Rio Olympics. Chanu, who is employed with the Indian Railways, lifted 85kg in snatch and 109kg in clean and jerk to total an impressive 194kg in the women's 48kg, in the process setting a new national record. "What I have achieved today would not have been possible without the guidance of my coach Vijay Sharma. Me and my coach left no stone unturned in our quest to taste success at the top level," said Chanu, the 2014 Commonwealth Games silver medalist. "It was disappointing I could not win a medal in Rio Olympics. I made mistakes (in Rio) and I am still sad about that. This medal has erased that sadness. I will work on my weaknesses and try to win medals in CWG and Asian Games next year and Tokyo Olympics." Seeing the tricolour from the podium, tears of joy rolled down her cheeks, as the 23-year-old Manipuri picked up a rare honour for an Indian at the marquee event. "We have got a medal in weightlifting after 24 years, it is a great achievement. In fact, this is a bigger achievement than Olympics because World Championships is much more tougher with a bigger and stronger pool of players," Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Secretary General Sachdev Yadav told PTI from Anaheim. "I would like to congratulate both Mirabai as well as coach Vijay Sharma for the huge feat. The coach trained her very well and he deserves a lot of credit for her success," he added. Chanu, with her lift of 85kg, came second in snatch but bagged the top positions each in clean & jerk and in overall total to finish with the yellow metal in a field of 20 lifters. Thailand's Sukecharoen Thunya won the silver medal with a



total lift of 193, while Segura Ana Iris bagged the bronze with 182kg. With a personal best of 192kg, Chanu entered into the competition as a strong medal contender and her quest for a gold medal was made easier by the absence of Rio Olympics 48kg gold medalist Sopiha Tanassan of Thailand, who shifted to 53kg in this championship and China could not field any lifter due to a one-year ban for doping. Chanu had finished ninth in the 2015 World Championships while she ended 11th in the 2014 edition. In September, Chanu had booked a berth for next year's Commonwealth Games after winning gold at the Commonwealth Senior Weightlifting Championships held in Australia. She had broken Common

wealth record in snatch event with a lift of 85kg, bettering her own record by a kilogramme. Olympic bronze medalist Karnam Malleswari had won the top prize in the World Championships twice — in 1994 and 1995. Kunjarani Devi had also won several medals — mostly silver but never a gold — in the World Championships between 1989 to 1999. Chanu's outing in the USA was very different from the way things panned out in Rio in 2016 when she put up a disappointing performance as she could not get an overall total in women's 48kg after failing to lift the weight in any of her three attempts in clean & jerk section. In a field of 12 lifters at the Rio Games, she was one of two lifters who did not finish (DNF) her event. (PTI)

## India wins 3 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze in Asian Archery C'ships

**DHAKA, NOV 30**—/ Indian archers produced an impressive performance, grabbing three gold, four silver and two bronze medals at the Asian Championships here today. Two Indian boys and one girl booked quota places for the 2018 Youth Olympics. 15-year-old Haryana girl Hiranmayi Kumari defeated her Mongolian opponent Bayasgalan Badamjuni 7-1 in the recurve cadet girls' final. Earlier in an all-India quota recurve final, 14-year-old Akash, who also belongs to Haryana, defeated Dhiraj Bommadevara of Andhra Pradesh 6-4 to bag the boys' quota for a brilliant gold medal triumph. Recurve senior men's team of Jayanta Talukdar, Atanu Bueson and Ashved lost to their Korean rivals 1-5 to settle for a silver. India also bagged two gold medals in the non-Olympic com-

petition discipline. Abhishek Verma beat Korean rival Kim Jongho to win the gold and prevent a clean sweep of individual crowns by Korea. "I did my best. Everybody prepared to get this achievement to get this medal, and right now it's just a good feeling," said Verma, who was runner-up at the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon. "We are already preparing for Asian Games (in Jakarta in 2018) just like we did last time, because we did very well. We'd like to repeat the same result this time, and every time." Indian women's com-

petition medal of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Trisha Deb and Parveen beat So Chae-won, Bomni and Song Yun Soo 230-227 to win the gold medal. Verma, however, could not inspire India to a compound team gold as he along with Gurwinder Singh and Rajat Chauhan lost by two points to the Korean team of Jongho, Choi Yonghee and Kim Taeyoon, who totalled 234. India also bagged a second gold in a compound team as the mixed team total to Korea, while Jyothi bagged a bronze to complete their tally.(PTI)

## Kohli, COA find 'common ground' on pay hike, FTP

**NEW DELHI, NOV 30**—/ India captain Virat Kohli and his predecessor M S Dhoni's demand for a pay hike for the team was today accepted by the Committee of Administrators, which also took their inputs on the issue of cramped scheduling. Kohli and Dhoni, along with national coach Ravi Shastri met COA chief Vinod Rai, Diana Edujil and BCCI CEO Rahul Johri here. "We had extensive discussions with players on issues that pertain to them directly, which means the number of matches they have to play, the Future Tours Program (FTP) and compensation package etc." Rai told reporters after the meeting which lasted more than two hours. "All the inputs they have to give us were taken and we are going to factor those in. The FTP, we bounced it off them. Presentations have been made and they are in agreement with the FTP so that they get enough rest. Number of days, I can't tell you as we have not yet worked it out," Rai said. As per the current pay structure, contracted Grade A players are paid Rs two crore annually. Grade B players are in the Rs one crore bracket, followed by Grade C at Rs 50 lakh per year. The pay for a match fee for the first XI players stands at Rs 15 lakh, while they are paid Rs six lakh and Rs three lakh per ODI and Twenty20 respectively. The players outside first XI but in the squad are paid half these amounts. Former coach Anil Kumble, during a presentation to the COA, had demanded Rs five crore for the Grade A players. The modalities of the new pay structure are, however, not yet known. "This was a path-breaking initiative, we feel we've found a common ground and aligned our thoughts for the betterment of the



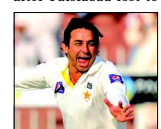
game be it the policies under which the player remuneration and FTP will be worked upon," Rai stated. It has also been reliably learnt that the Indian team, which is scheduled to play a full series in England between July and September next year, will travel there two weeks in advance to get acclimatised with the conditions.

This comes after Kohli complained of lack of time to prepare for a brilliant gold medal triumph. Recurve senior men's team of Jayanta Talukdar, Atanu Bueson and Ashved lost to their Korean rivals 1-5 to settle for a silver. India also bagged two gold medals in the non-Olympic com-

petition discipline. Abhishek Verma beat Korean rival Kim Jongho to win the gold and prevent a clean sweep of individual crowns by Korea. "I did my best. Everybody prepared to get this achievement to get this medal, and right now it's just a good feeling," said Verma, who was runner-up at the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon. "We are already preparing for Asian Games (in Jakarta in 2018) just like we did last time, because we did very well. We'd like to repeat the same result this time, and every time." Indian women's com-

petition medal of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Trisha Deb and Parveen beat So Chae-won, Bomni and Song Yun Soo 230-227 to win the gold medal. Verma, however, could not inspire India to a compound team gold as he along with Gurwinder Singh and Rajat Chauhan lost by two points to the Korean team of Jongho, Choi Yonghee and Kim Taeyoon, who totalled 234. India also bagged a second gold in a compound team as the mixed team total to Korea, while Jyothi bagged a bronze to complete their tally.(PTI)

**Still can't understand how Sachin was given not out: Ajmal**



**KARACHI, NOV 30**—/ More than five years may have passed, but Pakistan's top off-spinner Ajmal Shahzad still can't "understand" how Sachin Tendulkar was adjudged not out when he was given out by the World Cup semi-final. It was Ajmal who finally dismissed Tendulkar. "I was totally convinced I had him in front of the stumps but how the umpires didn't give him out I still can't understand," Ajmal said. He admitted that bowling to Indian batsmen spurred him on. "It was always a test of skills and nerves when bowling to Tendulkar and company." After a successful but controversial career, Ajmal finished with 178 wickets in 35 Tests, the last of which was at Galle in Sri Lanka in 2014, where his bowling action was reported for a second time.(PTI)

### Rooney scores sensational goal from his own half for Everton

**LONDON, NOV 30**—/ Everton star striker Wayne Rooney has scored some sumptuous goals in his career but his hat-trick goal against West Ham United will go down in history. The former Manchester United striker stunned Goodison Park with a wonder goal from his own half after a poor clearance by the Hammers keeper Joe Hart. The Everton forward played a big role in the team's 4-0 victory over West Ham by scoring the first three goals. His goal drenched in the league stretched back to October 22. His first goal of the night came in the 18th minute. He stepped up to take the kick from the spot which was saved at first by Hart but he headed successfully in the second attempt to put the hosts ahead.

**NEW DELHI, NOV 30**—/ Sri Lanka appear to have neither the game-plan nor the resources to halt India's seemingly inexorable march towards a record-equaling 11th consecutive series victory when the neighbours clash in the third and final test on Saturday. Sri Lanka's long-suffering fans saw a silver of hope when Dinush Chandimal and his men blanked Pakistan 2-0 in the United Arab Emirates in October before embarking on their bid to win a maiden test on Indian soil. They managed to bowl out Virat Kohli's men for 172 in the first test in Kolkata but after letting a dominant position slip on the final day, needed poor light to intervene to escape with a draw in that weather-hit contest at the Eden Gardens. At a dry

Nagpur, a marauding India cruelly exposed Sri Lanka's limitations and went on to register their joint biggest victory with more than a day to spare. India's ruthless batsmen — four of them helped themselves to centuries — made hay while the sun shone as they toyed with a toothless Sri Lankan attack in a complete mismatch. The hosts declared their first innings 'batathon' at 610 for six and did not need a second go in the middle after the home bowlers duly ran through Sri Lanka twice in the innings and 239 runs triumph. "Before we came here, we had a gameplan," Chandimal said after Sri Lanka's worst defeat in test cricket in which they scored less than 19 runs per wicket. "We said to the guys, 'if you get a start, you have to

bat long'. But they scored only 50-60 runs and got out. It's unfortunate but I'm sure they will learn." India, who subjected Sri Lanka to a 9-0 home whitewash across all formats earlier this year, are unlikely to take their foot off the accelerator in the final home test before they leave for South Africa. As was the case in Kolkata and Nagpur, the track at Delhi's Ferozeshah Kotla is likely to sport a green tinge as captain Kohli wants the series to double up as preparations for a tougher assignment away to the Proteas. "We want to prepare for South Africa. That's why we asked for pitches with help for the fast bowlers," Kohli said after the Nagpur rout. "There's not enough time in between to prepare, so we have to use the time we

have now for a big tour coming up." Kohli has killed two birds with one stone with his choice of surface, which has also dented Sri Lanka's most potent spin threat Rangana Herath, who will miss the Delhi test with a back injury. Kohli's counterpart Chandimal, however, will be more alarmed by the lack of application among his batsmen, as was evident on day four of the Nagpur test when seven of them got out in a morning session, most of them through poor shot selections. India are heavy favourites to win again but will need a draw to tie England and Australia for the record for most consecutive test series wins and Chandimal's men would have to conjure up something extraordinary to deny the hosts.

