



Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj-Chirag Shetty clinch China Masters badminton title

SHENZHEN, SEP 06: *Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty produced a stirring comeback to beat China's He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu in a three-game thriller and clinch the China Masters Super 750 title here on Sunday.*

Playing their third final here, Satwik and Chirag, who finished runners-up in the 2023 and 2025 editions, fought their way to an 11-21 21-13 21-17 victory over former world No. 4 He and Ren in a one-hour and 10-minute battle.

It is the second title of the season for the Indians, who had won the Singapore Open Super 750 and also reached the final of the Thailand Open Super 500.

The title is a big boost for the world No. 5 pair as they gear up to defend their gold medal at the Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Japan from September 19.

The Indians were up against a Chinese pair whose ranking had slipped to world No. 70 following a prolonged absence from the circuit.

It is just the third event for He Ji Ting, who returned to competitive badminton after serving a team-imposed disciplinary suspension by the Chinese Badminton Association (CBA).

Satwik and Chirag, however, had defeated the Chinese pair twice in their only two previous meetings.

The Indian pair had played three three-game



matches en route to the final, dropping the second game after winning the opening game in each of those encounters. Playing their third final in their 10th tournament of the year, Satwik and Chirag opted to choose ends after winning the toss instead of receiving.

The Indians couldn't take early control of the rallies as He Ji Ting and Ren zoomed to a 5-0 lead with fast, attacking strokes in short and snappy exchanges. They kept their serves tight and flat while maintaining an angled attack. A jump smash from He Ji Ting helped the Chinese pair maintain their five-point lead at 8-3.

The Indians tried to break through their rivals' defence, but the fast and aggressive Chinese pair took a six-point advantage into the interval. The Indians couldn't quite match the pace of their rivals as the deficit widened to 7-14. He Ji Ting looked in ominous touch, raining down thunderous smashes to shatter the Indians' defence.

A service fault from Chirag only added to the agony as the Chinese pair stretched their lead to 17-9. Another wide shot from Chirag allowed the Chinese pair to wrap up the opening game.

The Indians produced a far better show in the second game, tightening their defence and extending the rallies. Satwik also opted for a flick serve to keep the Chinese pair guessing and prevented them from engaging in the front court too often. Satwik and Chirag wrested the lead at 7-6 after a closely fought passage of play. A body smash from Chirag, their fifth straight point, took the Indians to 9-6, but a service error from Satwik ended their run.

A quick interception by Chirag, followed by a smash, helped the Indians take a four-point lead into the interval. Seven of the last eight points had gone India's way.

While most rallies lasted fewer than 15 shots early in the opening game, Satwik and Chirag extended the ex-

changes in the second, forcing the Chinese pair to work harder for every point.

A 45-shot rally, won by the Indians, helped them stretch their lead to 12-8. They soon moved ahead 17-11. The Indians then earned seven game-point opportunities when the Chinese pair found the net. Satwik sealed the game with an attacking return.

In the decider, the Chinese pair found their bearings and raced to a 4-0 lead before moving to 7-3. A smash from Chirag and a mishit from He Ji Ting helped the Indians close the gap to 5-7. A fourth straight point brought Satwik and Chirag level at 7-7. After a few flat exchanges, the Chinese pair managed to take a two-point advantage into the interval.

Back on their preferred side of the court, Satwik and Chirag kept themselves within striking distance at 11-13. It was a fight for initiative as the two pairs unleashed a series of flat, criss-cross exchanges. The Chinese were better at keeping the shuttle below the tape during the rallies and were rewarded for it, but the Indians continued to snap at their heels at 13-15 after a service error from the Chinese duo.

A short service from Satwik made it 14-16, before the Indians drew level at 16-16. The Indians soon moved ahead 18-17 when He Ji Ting found the net. A fortunate net cord handed the Indians three match-point opportunities, and Chirag sealed the title with a smash.

YSCC Sazan wins Doda Championship in Nail-Biting Final, Defeat KGD by 3 Runs

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 06

In a thrilling and nail-biting final of the Doda Championship 2026, Young Star Cricket Club (YSCC) Sazan defeated Khans Goodwill Doda (KGD) by a narrow margin of 3 runs at Sports Stadium Doda, lifting the championship trophy in a closely fought contest.

The tournament was organized by Mr. Yasir Dar, Chief Organizer of Khans Goodwill Doda, and witnessed an exciting final in the presence of a large gathering of cricket enthusiasts.

Earlier, after winning the toss, YSCC Sazan elected to bat first and set a target of 128 runs. YSCC were bowled out for 127 runs in 17.1 overs. Najeeb Batt top-scored with 20 runs, while Adil contributed 15 runs. From KGD, Vikas Bhagat was the pick of the bowlers, claiming four wickets, while Umar Shafi and Sajid Shah took two wickets each.

Chasing 128, KGD came agonizingly close but fell short by just three runs, managing 125 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 18 overs. Adnan scored a valuable 37 runs, while Umar Shafi contributed 24 runs. For YSCC Sazan, Momim



Batt led the bowling attack with three wickets, while Najeeb Batt, Zaheer and Adil claimed one wicket each.

Momim Batt was declared Man of the Match for his match-winning bowling performance, while Anish Rana was adjudged Man of the Tournament for his brilliant and consistent performances throughout the championship.

DySP DAR Doda, Sh. Adil Rishu, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Patron YSCC Doda Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Butt, Chairman YSCC Doda Mr. Naseer Ahmed Khora, and other

dignitaries were present as special guests.

Later, the Chief Guest and other dignitaries distributed the prizes among the winning and runner-up teams. YSCC Sazan received the winning trophy along with a cash prize of Rs 70,000, while the runner-up KGD was presented with a trophy and cash prize of Rs 30,000.

The final was officiated by Sahil Shah and Vikas Bhagat as umpires, while Naseer Mir performed the duties of scorer.

DySP DAR, Sh. Adil Rishu, in his brief address, congratulated both teams

for displaying excellent sportsmanship and competitive spirit. He appreciated the organizers for providing a platform for local cricketers and encouraged the young players to continue working hard and bring laurels to Doda.

Patron YSCC Doda, Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Butt, also congratulated the winners and runner-up team and appreciated the efforts of the organizers, players and officials. He said that such tournaments play an important role in promoting sports and nurturing young cricketing talent in the district.

APS Dhar Road Udhampur Bags Overall Championship in Open District-Level Speed Ball Championship

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 06

Jammu and Kashmir Sports Speed Ball Association organized the Open District-Level Speed Ball Championship 2026 on September 6 at R.N. Tagore Higher Secondary School, Nanak Nagar, Jammu in collaboration with R N Tagore Hr.Sec school.

More than 150 players from different schools and districts participated in the championship. Teams from Dogra Higher Secondary School, S.D. Tara Puri High School, New Era Mother High School, DPS Jammu, Crescent Public School, APS Dhar Road Udhampur, R.N. Tagore School, Rich Harvest School Shastri Nagar and Jammu Sanskriti School took part in the event.

Mr. Sunny Nanda, General Secretary, J&K Sports Speed Ball Association, hosted the championship and announced the final results. APS Dhar Road Udhampur emerged as the Overall Champion, while Rich Harvest School, Shastri Nagar, secured the position of First Runner-Up and S.D. Tara Puri High School



became the Second Runner-Up.

On the occasion, Madam Shakti Devi, SHO, Police Station City Jammu, was the Chief Guest. Madam Pooja Malhotra, Founder Patron, J&K Sports Speed Ball Association, presided over the closing ceremony.

Among the special guests were Mr. Munish Gupta Vice president JKsBA, Mr. Somil Abrol (PTI Journalist), Mr. Amit Mahajan (Director pci folk music/ soulmate), Dr. Hitesh Mahajan (Principal) and Mr. Sanjeev, Sub-Inspector, Police Station City Jammu. Speaking on the

occasion, Chief Guest Madam Shakti Devi interacted with the players and emphasized that sports should be an important part of life.

She appreciated the participation of young players and highlighted Speed Ball as a sport involving coordination between the eyes and hands. She also distributed medals and certificates among the winners. Mrs. Pooja Malhotra welcomed the guests and appreciated the efforts of the organizers, coaches, officials and participating schools for making the championship successful.

At the conclusion of the event, Mrs. Renu Devi proposed the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to all the guests, participating schools, players, officials, volunteers and supporters. Taruni Sharma anchored the closing ceremony. All medal winners were selected for the State-Level Speed Ball Championship.

The matches were officiated by Gurbansh choudhary, Sahil kaith, Anju devi, Srashity sharma, Devashish, Rachit kumar, Shivang and Yogant singh, whose efforts contributed to the smooth conduct of the championship.

DC Budgam Attends Finale of Sukhnag Premier League at Sail, Beerwah

BUDGAM, SEPTEMBER 5: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today attended the grand finale of the Sukhnag Premier League (SPL) held at Sail, Beerwah.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the vital role of sports in channelizing the energy, talent and potential of youth towards productive and constructive pursuits.

He emphasized the need to further strengthen the sporting ecosystem in the



district by providing aspiring players with better opportunities, professional

coaching and adequate sports facilities.

“Our focus is to create a

strong sports ecosystem in Budgam where every young person gets an opportunity to play, compete and excel. Sporting events like the Sukhnag Premier League play an important role in nurturing talent while promoting discipline, teamwork and a healthy lifestyle among youth,” the Deputy Commissioner said.

He further stated that the District Administration is committed to developing quality sports infrastructure across Budgam and providing youth with improved facilities at local sports grounds.

AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026

Indian women's team registers second consecutive win, beating Malaysia 11-1

MOQI [CHINA], SEPTEMBER 6 : India's junior women's team continued their commanding start to the AHF Junior Asia Cup 2026 in Moqi, China, producing another emphatic performance to register an 11-1 victory over Malaysia in their second Elite Pool match on Sunday.

The two-time winners and defending champions built on their opening 4-1 win over South Korea, looking far more settled and assured. Seven different players found the net, while India's improved coordination was reflected in the varied manner of their goals, with four coming from field play, five from penalty corners and two from penalty strokes.

Having overcome the initial nerves of their tournament opener, India looked increasingly confident and cohesive. Their attacking movements were sharper, while their penalty-corner execution remained a major strength.

India wasted no time asserting their authority, opening the scoring in the first minute through Puja Sahoo, who converted a penalty stroke. The early breakthrough immediately set the tone, and India doubled their advantage in the fourth minute when Purnima Yadav found the back of the net.

The defending champi-



ons continued to pile on the pressure, with Binima Dhan converting a penalty corner in the eighth minute before Krishna Sharma added another in the 14th minute.

The second quarter saw Purnima completing her brace in the 17th minute, again converting from a penalty corner. Two more goals came off Indian sticks before half-time, as Sukhveer Kaur got herself on the scoresheet in the 21st minute before Geeta Yadav struck in the 28th minute. Both scored off penalty corners. India went into the interval with a 7-0 advantage. Malaysia finally found a

breakthrough in the 38th minute when Nur Mohd scored their only goal of the contest. However, the consolation strike did little to disrupt India's momentum.

India were awarded another penalty stroke in the 42nd minute, and Puja calmly converted to complete her brace. Sanika Chandrakant Mane then scored in the 43rd minute to make it 9-1 heading into the final quarter.

There was no let-up from India in the closing stages. Geeta scored her second goal of the match with another penalty corner conversion in the 53rd minute, before Sanika scored once

again in the 58th minute to complete the 11-1 rout.

The result gives India two wins from two matches and six points, putting them at the top of the standings in the Elite Pool. China and Japan are second and third, respectively, with three points each after playing and winning one match; goal difference separates them. South Korea and Malaysia occupy the fourth and fifth spots, respectively, after suffering two defeats each.

India will enjoy a rest day on Monday before returning to action against Japan in their third pool-stage match on September 8.