



# Shooting back to the top

## INDIA'S SRAO COMPLETES COMEBACK WITH TWO GOLD MEDALS

By ZHANG CHUNMEI  
CHINA DAILY

SHENZHEN — Harveen Srao got a little trigger-happy on Saturday.  
Good for her.

The shooter from India won Universiade gold in the individual and team women's 10m air-pistol events at the Shenzhen shooting range.



SHOOTING

Indian shooting is in a transitional period, but Srao has proved herself one of the nation's stars.

"I am very happy," she said. "I have strong confidence, and never felt nervous in the competition. The competition is tough, but I practiced a lot so I believed I would make it."

Srao, 25, was India's national champion in 2006 and 2010. She collected the higher score of 388 points in the qualification round, and 99.2 points in the 10-shot final for a winning total of 487.2.

She's been in this position before.

Four years ago, at the Bangkok Universiade, Srao beat 2004 Olympic champion Olena Kostevych of Ukraine to earn India's first gold medal in the individual women's air pistol.

This time around, Kostevych fired 483.2 and had to settle for bronze.

"I have achieved four medals in different shooting competitions this year," Kostevych said.

"I (was) eager for the gold medal at the Universiade. I did not perform well in the match. The five-hour time difference impacted my condition. I was really disappointed about the result."

Srao gave high marks to her rival.

"Kostevych is a world-class shooter," she said. "I felt great pressure when we met in the final, but the gold medal is also important for me. It was my aim to shoot a good score here and I made it."

Her personal best is 390 points, at India's national championships in 2006.

A World Championships bronze medalist as a junior, Srao lost at the World Cup in 2008.

She last represented her country in the SAF Shooting Championship in Dhaka in 2009, and then took a break.

"I was a student at that time, and 2010 was my last year in school. I needed to pay full attention to studying and exams, so I stopped attending shooting competitions," Srao said.

She then slowly slipped down the pecking order of Indian shooters.

"It was a harrowing time for me after the high of gold at the Bangkok Universiade," she said.

She shot herself back into the spotlight, making a remarkable comeback to win gold in the 10m air pistol event at the Indian



ZHANG CHUNMEI / CHINA DAILY

**India's Harveen Srao won the gold in the women's 10-meter air pistol event at the Universiade yesterday.**

national shooting championships in January.

Indian shooters are focusing on gaining as many quota allotments as possible for the London Olympics.

With only two secured — Gagan Narang in air rifle and Hariom Singh in free rifle prone — there is a lot of anxiety as to whether India will be able to better its record of winning nine berths at the Beijing Olympics.

Abhinav Bindra won gold in the 10m

air rifle at that Olympics. He was the first Indian to win an individual gold medal at the Games.

Srao said she hopes to do well in the World Cup events and bag an Olympic place.

"Bindra is my role model," she said. "I want to learn more from him. I am using this competition as preparation for the London Olympics. But I still need to win a place on the squad at the national championships this year."

## Pang in no mood for a silver lining

By ZHANG CHUNMEI  
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SHENZHEN — If you're an Olympic champion, you should probably be able to go on to a Universiade title, right?

Pang Wei thought so, and now he's disappointed.

Pang, a Chinese shooter who won at the 2006 World Championships and the 2008 Olympics in the 10m men's air pistol, was less than pleased with his silver medal on Friday.

"I am not satisfied with second place, again," he said. "The level of the competition is not very high. The silver is regretful, but I can only accept it."

In the individual event, Lee Dae Myung, a South Korean marksman, shot 586 in qualifying and 99.7 in the finals for a total of 685.7, while Pang finished just behind at 685.5.

"Shooting might be the sport with the biggest difference between the appearance and inside," Pang said. "Shooters seem calm on the surface, but their hearts are storming... I was a little unfocused and shot 8.9 in the second round, which led me to fall behind."

China coach Wang Yifu discussed his expectations for Pang.

"He has not achieved good results since the Beijing Olympics," Wang said. "His form has not been very good for a long time. I hope he can learn from the seniors, especially from his wife, Du Li. He should learn from her to adjust himself quickly."

Du won a gold medal in the women's 10m air-rifle competition in the 2004 Olympics. She was unable to defend that title in Beijing — finishing fifth — but fought back to win gold in the women's 50m rifle three positions competition, setting an Olympic record in the process.

Du paid attention to her husband's performance at the Universiade.

"She called me right after the match," Pang said. "She reminded me to take care of my appearance during the interview, and she approved of my performance, saying it is reasonable on the whole."

Pang, 25, a student at Beijing Sports University, has been married to Du for three years.

He admitted he's a changed man since his Olympic title.

"I gained a lot of awards after the Olympics, the material awards and spiritual honors all came to me. I did not digest them well. I thought too much and wanted more, which made it hard to settle down for training," he said.

His coach says Pang still has room to grow.

"Pang is an excellent shooter," Wang said. "He needs to consider seriously what to do in the future. The way to grow up sometimes is slow and not smooth. I think he will surely find a role model in the Chinese shooting team."