

TRIPLE TREAT

■ Vaishnavi clinches a singles and two doubles titles, with Eshita

DC CORRESPONDENT

Hyderabad girl Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka added to the state's burgeoning badminton laurels by clinching three titles for India (two in Mongolia and one in Russia) and finished an impressive runner-up in the Under 19 women's singles final at the Russian Junior White Nights tournament held in Gatchina, Russia, where shuttlers from 21 countries participated.

In the Russian U-19 singles final, 15-year-old Vaishnavi went down fighting to top seed Chasinee Korepap of Thailand 20-22, 16-21. Both Vaishnavi and Chasinee went neck-and-neck in the first game before the Thai girl clinched it at 22-20.

The second game too saw some fierce competition but Chasinee, the World No.12 in girls U-19, pulled ahead when it mattered to wrap up the match.

Earlier in the semifinals, Vaishnavi battled past Europe No.30 Anastasiia Shapovalova of Russia 18-21, 21-17, 21-18 while it was curtains for another Indian, Purva Barve, who lost to Chasinee 18-21, 20-22.

Meanwhile, the other player from the Indian camp, 15-year-old Eshita Raju, lost her way in the second round. She bowed out after losing to Anastasiia Shapovalova 12-21, 21-17, 9-21.

In the U-19 women's doubles final in Russia, Vaishnavi and Eshita brushed aside the home pair of Anastasiia Osianenko & Anastasiia Shapovalova with a 21-16, 21-19 scoreline. Earlier in the semifinal, the Indians drubbed Valeriia Makkoveeva & Daria Radchenko 21-11, 21-15.

Vaishnavi and Eshita came out flying colours in the Mongolia Junior International Series at Ulaanbaatar as well. In the U-19 women's singles final, Vaishnavi defeated her doubles partner 21-10, 17-21, 21-19 in a 36-minute encounter.

Both of them then teamed up to clinch the Under-19 women's doubles title. Vaishnavi and Eshita continued their strong bond and cornered the local pair of Kherlen Darkhanbaatar & Uyanga Munkhat in just 17 minutes to emerge champions. The scoreline read 21-14, 21-9.

Vaishnavi was understandably elated after her performance. "I am very grateful to the Badminton Association of India President Himanta Biswa Sarma for his unconditional support," she said.

Vaishnavi trains at the Banthongyord Badminton School in Bangkok, Thailand. Eshita hones her skills at the Suchitra Badminton Academy in Hyderabad.



Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (left) and her doubles partner Eshita Raju K. are all smiles as they pose with the trophies after emerging champions in the U-19 doubles category of the Russian Junior White Nights badminton tournament held in Gatchina, Russia. Vaishnavi & Eshita won the final in straight games 21-16, 21-19.

THE RESULTS

Russian Junior White Nights in Gatchina, Russia

■ **U-19 women's singles final:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (India) lost to Chasinee Korepap (1, Thailand) 20-22, 16-21. **Semifinals:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (India) bt Anastasiia Shapovalova (Russia) 18-21, 21-17, 21-18; Chasinee Korepap (Thailand) bt Purva Barve (3, India) 21-18, 22-20. **Quarterfinals:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (India) bt Hasini Nusaka Ambalangodage (Sri Lanka) 21-13, 21-14; Purva Barve (India) bt Yulia Vasilyeva (Russia) 21-10, 21-15. **Second round:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (India) bt Anastasiya Prozorova (8, Ukraine) 21-13, 21-6; Purva Barve (India) bt Anastasiia Sharapova (Russia) 21-12, 21-23, 21-14; Eshita Raju (India) lost to Anastasiia Shapovalova (Russia) 12-21, 21-17, 9-21. **First round:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (India) bt Lana Kuleshova (Russia) 21-15, 21-7; Eshita Raju (India) bt Alina

Busygina (Russia) 21-16, 21-19; Purva Barve (India) bt Mariya Malygina (Russia) 21-9, 21-16.

■ **U-19 women's doubles final:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka/ Eshita Raju K. (India) bt Anastasiia Osianenko/ Anastasiia Shapovalova (Russia) 21-16, 21-19. **Semifinal:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka/ Eshita Raju K. (India) bt Valeriia Makkoveeva/ Daria Radchenko (Russia) 21-11, 21-15. **Quarterfinal:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka/ Eshita Raju K. (India) bt Alina Busygina/ Tatiana Samburskaia (Russia) 21-7, 21-10. **First round:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka/ Eshita Raju K. (India) bt Mariya Malygina/ Alina Romanko (Russia) 21-19, 21-10.

Mongolia Junior International Series in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

■ **U-19 women's singles final:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (1, India) bt Eshita Raju K. (2, India) 21-10, 17-21, 21-19. **Semifinals:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (India) bt Sevinch Sodikova (Uzbekistan) 21-7, 21-7;

Eshita Raju K. (India) bt Kherlen Darkhanbaatar (3, Mongolia) 21-7, 21-8. **Quarterfinals:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (India) bt Gantsetseg Baatarsuren (Mongolia) 21-6, 21-6; Eshita Raju K. (India) bt Minjin Zorigt (Mongolia) 21-4, 21-5. **First round:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka (India) bt Uyanga Munkhat (Mongolia) 21-7, 21-8; Eshita Raju K. (India) bt Doljinjav Khatanzorig (Mongolia) 21-3, 21-4.

■ **U-19 women's doubles final:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka/ Eshita Raju K. (1, India) bt Kherlen Darkhanbaatar/ Uyanga Munkhat (2, Mongolia) 21-14, 21-9. **Semifinal:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka/ Eshita Raju K. (India) bt Khaliunaa Bataa (Mongolia)/ Sevinch Sodikova (Uzbekistan) 21-5, 21-4. **Quarterfinal:** Vaishnavi Reddy Jakka/ Eshita Raju K. (India) bt Solongo Amarbayar/ Purevdavaa Bayarsaikhan (Mongolia) 21-5, 21-6.