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City shooter beats Narang to win gold

Biju Babu Cyriac | TNN

Bangalore: City shooter **Rakesh Manpat** silenced the big guns, including Gagan Narang, to emerge champion in the men's 50m rifle prone event in the National shooting champion-



ships in New Delhi on Friday.

Manpat, who bagged a sil-

SHOOTING

ver in the last Nationals, began the final at the Dr Karni Singh range with three near-perfect shots of 10.7 and then went on to beat a strong challenge from Narang and Joydeep Karmakar to bag the gold.

"The gold medal has been due from me for quite some time now. Last Nationals I

won the silver but Gagan and Joydeep were not there in the field. I knew I had to start the new format finals strongly to remain on the top and fortunately I started with three straight 10.7. It gave a boost till the end," Manpat told TOI from New Delhi.

The bronze medal went to Narang when he was eliminated after 18 shots in the final. After 20 shots Karmakar settled for silver. Sanjeev Rajput took the fourth place. "Out of 20 I shot 19 tens," Manpat said, adding that it was his mental toughness that proved the key in defeating seasoned campaigners.

Manpat will now shift his focus to the 10m air rifle, against the likes of Abhinav Bindra and Narang, and the 50m rifle 3 position.

biju.cyriac@timesgroup.com