

# Patra qualifies for parallel bars finals at World Cup

## Agencies

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**NEW DELHI:** Gymnast Rakesh Kumar Patra has qualified for the parallel bars finals at the FIG World Cup in Koper, Slovenia. He was placed eighth with a score of 13.250. The top-eight qualify for the Finals where they have to perform again for deciding the medals. The FIG World Cup in Koper is third of the seven World Challenge Cup Series for 2019.

The World Challenge Cup events are major FIG events with a broader participation and open to all countries. At each event, the gymnasts have the opportunity to win prize money and World Challenge Cup points which will count towards the World Challenge Cup Ranking List for each apparatus. The Parallel Bar Finals will take place on Sunday.

## AIFF WANTS TO HOST 2022 WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP

**NEW DELHI:** India is one of the three countries which have expressed interest in hosting the AFC Women's Asian Cup football tournament in 2022. Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan are the other countries in contention to host Asia's premier women's competition, AFC said.

The three countries will now be invited to nominate their proposed venues for the tournament, with the host expected to be announced by the second quarter of 2020. If India gets the right to host the event, it will be their second time after 1980 in Kozhikode.

## ADITI MAKES CUT AT US WOMEN'S OPEN

**CHARLESTON, US:** Aditi Ashok birdied three times on her second nine including the final hole to card an even par 71 and make the cut at the US Women's Open.

Aditi was one-over 143 and placed tied-33rd as there were still many players yet to complete the round.

Mamiko Higa of Japan, who shot a 6-under-par 65 in her first-ever US Women's Open round on Thursday, rallied with birdies on

three of her last six holes on Friday to post an even-par 71 and maintain a one-stroke lead in the weather-hit second round. Aditi starting from 10th, bogeyed 14th and had pars on rest of the back nine. On the second nine, she birdied first and second and pushed herself up. But she gave away both those shots on third and fourth before getting another birdie on the ninth.

## RAJIV FIRST TO QUALIFY IN TOP 7 IN AP 250 CLASS

**BURIRAM, THAILAND:** Honda Racing India's Rajiv Sethu on Saturday became the first Indian to finish in top-7 in the AP 250 class qualifying race in the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship but met with a crash in the main race to end 22nd.

The morning qualifier saw Rajiv record the best-ever finish by an Indian rider in top-7. His gap with lead rider Muklada was further reduced to under 1 second, the least ever so far.

Unfortunately, he could not maintain this momentum in Race 1. A poor start lost him 14 posi-

tions from his first-ever third row start.

Rajiv made a quick recovery and by lap 3, he had overtaken one rider, and three more by lap 5. By the start of last 10th lap, Rajiv had returned to his targeted 10th position. But then, searching for a slipstream came the high-side resulting in a crash in Turn 3.

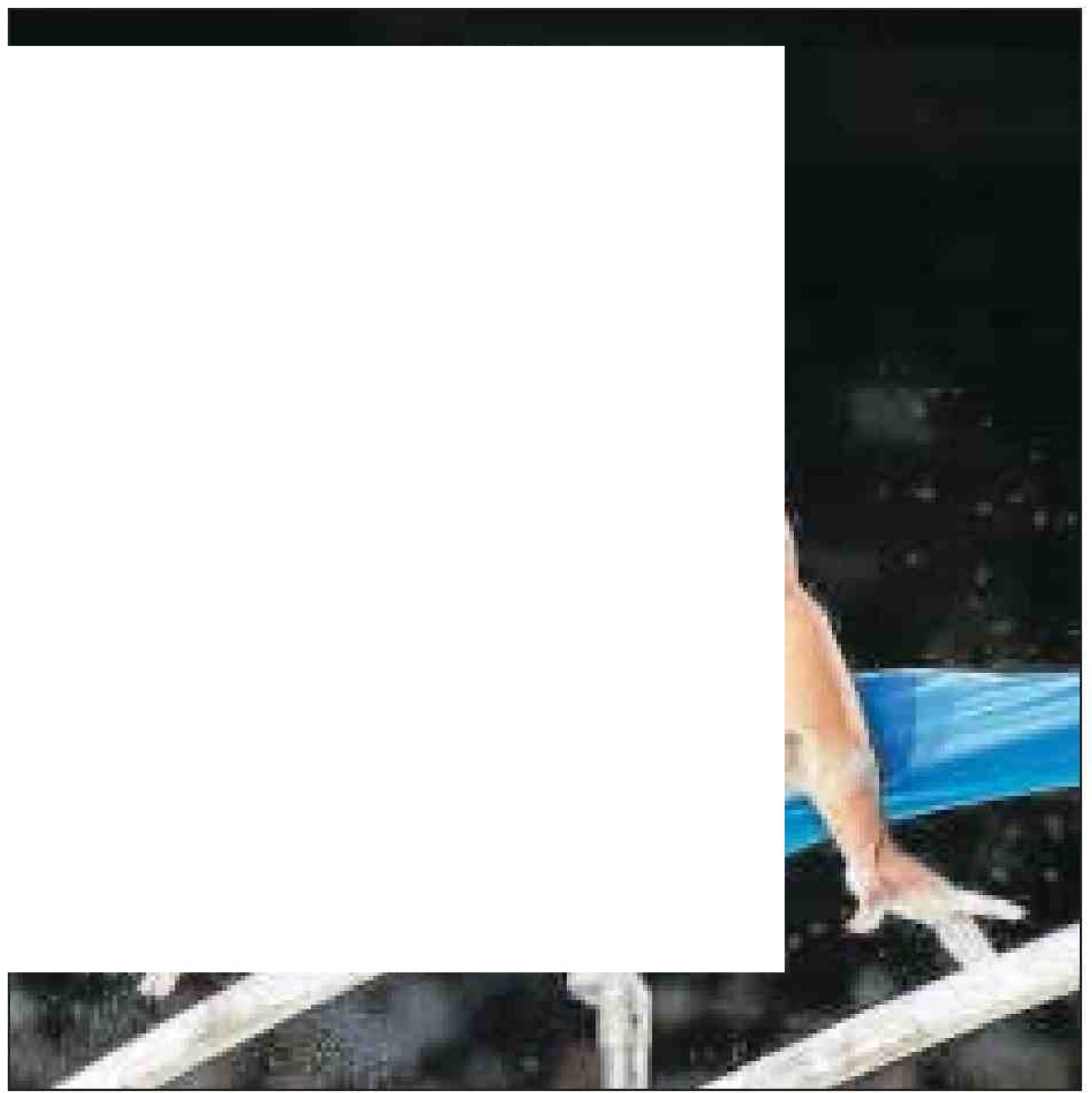
## GANGJEE MOVES UP TO TIED-44TH IN JAPAN

**IBARAKI, JAPAN:** Rahil Gangjee shot three-over 75 but still moved up the leaderboard at the end of third round of the Gateway to the Open Mizuno Open here Saturday.

Gangjee is now six-over and tied-44th from tied-57th after two rounds. Starting from the tenth, Gangjee bogeyed the 16th and the 17th but found a birdie on the 18th.

It was to be his only birdie of the day as he also bogeyed twice on the front nine, on second and seventh, at the Royal Golf Club.

Yuta Ikeda carded six-under 66 to move into lead at six-under 210 and he was one ahead of Chan Kim (69) at five-under.



■ Rakesh Patra was placed eighth with a score of 13.250 in the parallel bars finals held in Slovenia.

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