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Karle in Indian team for jr meet

Tejas Karle of Panvel will represent India in the junior international shooting competitions to be held in Czech Republic and Germany in June.

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Tejas Karle of Panvel will represent India in the junior international shooting competitions to be held in Czech Republic and Germany in June.

Ranked second among juniors in the 10m air rifle category, Karle is part of the five-member Indian team for the two back-to-back competitions: 22nd Meeting of Shooting Hopes at Plzen in Czech between June 6 and 10 and 18th International Junior Competition in Rifle-Pistol-Shotgun at Suhl in Germany between June 11 and 17.

Karle's teammates are Mahesh Kumar (ranked No 1), Ashish Gautam (No 3), Kapil Rana (No 4) and Navdeep Singh Rathore (No 5). The performances were based on the two trials held in Delhi last month. The National Rifle Association of India will conduct a coaching camp for the juniors between May 26 and June 6 in Bangalore.

The class twelve student of DAV Public School, Panvel, trains at Lakshya Shooting Club at the Karnala Sports Academy premises in Panvel under the watchful eyes of Olympian shooter Suma Shirur.

Shirur was pleased with Karle, who's the first student from her shooting academy to be selected for an international event.

"Lakshya started with five students and Tejas was one among them. He is regular and has been performing consistently," Shirur said.

This is Karle's first selection for an international event. It did not happen easily, though. He had broken his right wrist (shooting hand) after falling from his cycle last December and was told to be off rifle for two months. "I was determined to prove to my parents that I could achieve something in shooting. I was confident of doing well in the trials. I was a little apprehensive before my first trial, but once I entered the range, I just focussed on the match. I had scores of 589 in the first trial and 587 in the second."

Karle admitted he did not know how the international shooters performed and if his scores are good enough as compared to theirs.

"But I have time and will get guidance from my coach (Suma Shirur). I am sure I will improve my scores as there is enough time for the competition," said Karle, who trains for two hours daily at the shooting range.