

New Year brings good tidings to paddler from city

Fidel R. Snehit ranked world no. 64 in under-18

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His graph continues to rise. The Hyderabad S. Fidel R. Snehit, the paddler who has been making news for all the right reasons, has achieved what no one else from the State could so far - career best world ranking of 64 (under-18) in table tennis.

The 17-year-old was the one from Telangana to win an international title when he clinched the honours in the 2017 Jordan Open. The ITTF world rankings that were out on Tuesday suggest that Snehit, India no. 2 in junior boys section, went from ranking 88 to 64 picking 1,230 points in the under-18 category this year.

And Snehit credits his latest achievement to his mentor and coach Raman, former national champion. "I thank Raman sir and my coach in Hyderabad Somnath Ghosh for helping me achieve this. I will work really hard to keep improving as this cannot be the end of it all," says a visibly pleased young champion. He cur-



Table tennis player Fidel R. Snehit.

rently trains at Raman TT High Performance Academy in Chennai. Snehit also thanked the Telangana State TT Association, especially its Secretary P. Prakash Raju and Hyderabad District Association president A. Narasimha Rao for their support. "My Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan principal C. Ramadevi, vice principal Sashikala and other teachers, have given me the freedom to balance both academics and table tennis," he explained.

There are only two other Indians ranked higher than Snehit - world no. 18 Manav Thakkar and world no. 47 Manush Shah.