

Six state athletes for U-20 World C'ship

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Unnathi Aiyappa and Rihan C will be Karnataka's flag bearers at the World Athletics U-20 Championships beginning in Lima, Peru on August 27.

While Unnathi, who is fast rising in the senior national circuit, will compete in her pet event the 100m hurdles and 200m. Rihan will be a part of the men's 4x400m relay team, which is tipped as a medal contender in the prestigious competition.

"Both Unnanthi and Pavana (Nagaraj) are in the reckoning to

enter the final in the 100m hurdles and long jump events. Once they make the title round, it will be another tough challenge to get on the podium," Unnathi's mother and Asian Games medallist Pramila Aiyappa told TOI.

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She said the problem for the Karnataka youngster would be that the two finals are scheduled on the same day. "The heats and semis are on one day and if they advance to the finals, then both the title races are scheduled on the same day (August 30)," she added.

While the 100m hurdles final is scheduled at 5.10 pm local time, the women's 200m final is at 6.35 pm. "Both the finals will be held within the span of 90 minutes. In that case, Unnanthi will focus on the hurdles," Pramila said.

Pavana's mother and national record holder in high jump Sahanu Kumari will travel with the team as a national coach.

Karnataka athletes:

Men: Rihan C (4x400m relay).

Women: Unnathi Aiyappa (100mH, 200m); Shreeya Rajesh (400mH), Pavana Nagaraj (long jump); Neole Cornelio and Sudeeksha V (both 4x100m relay).



RARING TO GO: Peru-bound athletes from Karnataka