JSPL-backed Babulu bags gold in Nat'l Wushu

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Babulu Munda of Sialijoda village under Deojhar GP in Keonjhar district has once again brought laurels for Odisha. Supported by the JSPL Foundation, the tribal talent has clinched gold medal in the 19th Junior National Wushu Championship-21 held at Fatehabad, Haryana from March 10 to 15.

Babulu defeated his Manipur counterpart Laishram Ramesh in the 48kg category in a high-octane match. In the tournament, earlier, he had defeated his contenders from Karnataka, Jharkhand, Delhi, Haryana and Manipur to reach the final berth. Led by coach Pankaj Mahanta, the team's five members Babulu, Rajesh Munda, Krishna Khandayat, Sanjeeb Naik and Shibdutta Mahakud represented Odisha in tourney. Congratulating Bablu, JSPL Foundation chairperson Shallu Jindal said, "I am hopeful that the talents from tribals-dominated region, nourished by JSPL Foundation will continue to make the country proud."

Earlier, Babulu had won silver medals in the 7th World Wushu Championship, Brazil and 10th Asian Junior Wushu Championships held in Brunei in 2018 and 2019, respectively, which had been published in The Pioneer. Babulu's passion for martial arts has earned 22 medals from 25 events so far at State, national and international levels.