

Bhubaneswar **ROCKS**

39TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

Dipa, Nandi make a bold statement

It was a magical evening as the new pin-up girl of Indian sport, Dipa Karmakar, and her long-time mentor, Bisheshwar Nandi on Friday had the delegates of the 39th National Convention of the Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI) in rapt attention.

Taking part in the 'Storytelling' programme recalling her life as a gymnast prior to attaining stardom at the Rio Olympics, the 23-year-old Tripura girl was never in doubt about what she wanted to say. She spoke in a measured tone and left behind such a striking impression of being a sportsperson with a level head and the future challenges she is prepared to face and conquer.

Dipa also recalled an incident when she was really stumped when asked whether she was from Bangladesh, especially after having told the questioner that she hailed from Tripura. This she said happened at the first major event she took part in. The fourth-placed finisher in women's vault at the recent Rio Olympics signed off with a flourish saying, "I am happy that on August 15 this year I made India watch gymnastics for more than an hour."

Dipa who was initiated to the sport at the age of seven by Nandi's wife and coach, Soma, was all praise of the support received by her from the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Gymnastics Federation of India, her sponsors, GoSports Foundation and the Tripura Government. Still she maintained that the person she owed the most was her personal coach who like her parents sacrificed so much to help her to get such a big stage like the Olympic Games.



"He is, of course, a tough taskmaster. But all the same a concerned person too, of my well-being and helping me stay fully focussed both during training and competitions. With him around, I am just left to concentrate on my routines and sharpening my skills. It was again under his tutelage that I did get to do 'produnova' which I think has had a major say in getting to where I am now."

"This is India"

Nandi, who spoke next, did not mince words as he pointed out that India remained a country where you could gain recognition only if you got your act together. "This is India...to get something, you have to do some thing. To gain attention and recognition, one has to do something," he said matter-of-factly.

The Dronacharya-award winner said gymnastics had a great future if the States started promoting it vigourously. Turning to the Odisha Sports Minister,

Sudam Marandi, he urged the State government to recall his friend and colleague Ashok Mishra. "When he (Mishra) was around, Odisha was a force to reckon with in Indian gymnastics. But after he moved away to Kolkata, it has only left Odisha gymnastics in doldrums."

Terming his protégé's immense talent as something which cannot be measured even in terms of tonnes of gold, Nandi said that Dipa still had a long way to go. "If she remains focussed, we have in her a sure shot gold medal winner in Tokyo four years from now."

The SJFI, on its part, felicitated both Dipa and Nandi on making it to Bhubaneswar. A specially-designed Certificate of Excellence was awarded to Dipa besides a Sambalpuri shawl and a silver replica of the famous Chariot Wheel, while Nandi received a shawl and a memento.

Three kudos to these heroes



DEVENDRA JHAJHARIA

Javelin thrower Devendra Jhajharia became the first Indian to clinch two gold medals at the Paralympics, when he bettered his own world record to clinch the top honours in the men's javelin throw F46 athletics event at the Rio Games. Devendra, who hails from Churu district of Rajasthan, won his previous gold at the 2004 Athens Games. He improved on the previous world mark of 62.15 metres (achieved in the 2004 Games), with an attempt of 63.97 metres at the Olympic Stadium (Engenhao).

The 35-year-old who is now employed by the Sports Authority of India as coach lost his left arm when he was nine in an electric shock.

From a district-level champion, he steadily moved up the ladder to compete at the state-level competitions and in 2002 he went on to win his first gold in the Para-Asian Games.

He was 23 when he won the gold at the 2004 Athens Games. His performance has been quite consistent in the decade after this big win. He won a silver at the 2014 Incheon Para Asian Games.

India's Mariyappan Thangavelu made the country proud by winning the gold medal while compatriot Varun Singh Bhati clinched the bronze in the men's high jump T-42 event at the Rio Paralympics.

The 20-year-old Thangavelu with a great effort soared to a height of 1.89m, which helped him to secure the gold, while Bhati produced a personal best of 1.86m to finish third. USA's Sam Grewe bagged the silver medal.

Thangavelu was injured at the age of five, when a bus accident left him with a permanent disability. Bronze medal winner Bhati was diagnosed with polio which led to a deformity in his legs.



**Mariyappan Thangavelu (left)
& Varun Singh Bhati (Right)**

Shot-putter Deepa Malik created sporting history after becoming the first Indian woman to win a Paralympics medal. She won a silver with an impressive throw of 4.61m (15.12ft) in the F-53 final event in Rio.

Malik was paralysed below her waist in 1999 after undergoing surgery to remove a spinal tumour.

She decided to participate in para sports six years later and took to swimming and javelin throw, winning medals at national and international events.

She also participated in the shot put, winning silver at the World Championships in 2011.



Deepa Malik



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The FAB 5

and the final flourish

Tennis Talk



Tough has a new name -- Stan Wawrinka.

The 31-year-old, until recently known as 'the other Swiss', who swung freely even if fiercely in the giant shadows of the legendary Roger Federer, is now the owner of a staggering Grand Slam record. Three major finals, three titles.

The last time Wawrinka lost a tour-level final was three summers ago, on grass at s-Hertogenbosch. Since then, the World No.3 -- of the colour-box, clothing collection fame -- has won all 11 finals he has made, snapping up four titles this season.

Wawrinka, who won the US Open last Sunday, says the deeper he goes into the draw, the better he plays.

So much so that the Fab 4 -- World no.1 Novak Djokovic, No.2 Andy Murray, the injured Federer and Spaniard Rafael Nadal -- have been forced to expand their elite club to five, making place for the power hitter. Wawrinka, who quite incredibly is now only a Wimbledon short of a career Slam, has worked his way into the fold quietly.

Until the first week of Wimbledon, after winning his first title at Roland Garros, Djokovic was the game's indomitable force. But the holder of all four Grand Slams, the first man to do so since Rod Laver in 1969, hasn't quite been the same since his third-round loss at the All England Club.

The Serb later clarified that his shock

loss was more a mental wobble that had nothing to do with physical issues. 'Private issues', he called them. "I am in a position, like everybody else, we all have private issues," he said. "That (Wimbledon) was the period for me. It happened right there. It was resolved and life is going on like everything else. It was some other thing I was going through privately and nothing linked to the wrist injury. Everything is fine."

Not quite, apparently. The 29-year-old lost in the first round of the Rio Olympics, falling to Juan Martin Del Potro. And in his four-set loss to Wawrinka in the final of the US Open, he seemed a shadow of his razor-sharp self.

Correspondingly Murray, the British No.1 who reunited with the stone-faced legend Ivan Lendl in the summer, has rediscovered the spark in his play, backing his third Grand Slam title with his second Olympic gold. Though he lost nerve and serve in his clash against Kei Nishikori in the US Open, the Scot remains the hottest player on the Tour with his return of serve, the feature of his play.

“I practice my returns a lot. It didn't sort of just happen by chance. My game sort of starts from there,” Murray said. “I practice it for 30 minutes every day. A lot of players hit loads of tennis balls, maybe at the end of practice they serve a little bit and return a little bit. Sometimes, those two shots get left out. But, you know, they're the most



important shots in the game, so I practice them a lot.”

The World No.2, who lost in the finals of the first two Grand Slams of the year in Melbourne and Paris, offered a refreshing take on failure. “I don't mind failing. Failing's okay, provided you've given your best and put everything into it,” the 29-year-old said. “A lot of questions get asked of me after those losses. Failing is not terrible. I put myself in a position all the time in these events to win. Haven't won them all of the time. I've lost a lot of close ones against great players. I learn from my losses. That's what I've done throughout my career.”

Murray, whose record in Grand Slam finals is 3-8, said, “The guys that I've been playing against (in Grand Slam finals) -- Djokovic, Federer and Nadal -- have won lots. A lot of people say,



the best three players of all time. I've won some matches against them in Slams, but I've also lost quite a few, too.”

That's just what makes Wawrinka's record so special. While he beat Nadal to win the Australian Open (2014), he beat the world's top gun, Djokovic, to win in Paris (2015) and New York (2016). Stan is indeed the man, at least until he makes a Grand Slam final he can't win.

*Prajwal Hegde is Tennis Editor,
The Times of India*



India Vs England

INDIA BATTING AGAINST ENGLAND

S No	Player		Runs	M	Inn	NO	HS	Ave	100s	50s
1	Tendulkar	SR	2535	32	53	4	193	51.73	7	13
2	Gavaskar	SM	2483	38	67	2	221	38.2	4	16
3	Dravid	RS	1950	21	37	5	217	60.94	7	8
4	Viswanath	GR	1880	30	54	4	222	37.6	4	12
5	Vengsarkar	DB	1589	26	43	6	157	42.95	5	6
6	Kapil Dev	N	1355	27	39	6	116	41.06	2	8
7	Azharuddin	M	1278	15	24	2	182	58.09	6	3
8	Manjrekar	VL	1181	17	29	2	189*	43.74	3	5
9	Dhoni	MS	1157	21	37	2	99	33.06	0	12
10	Engineer	FM	1113	18	33	3	121	37.1	1	8
11	Shastri	RJ	1026	20	31	4	187	38	4	3
12	Ganguly	SC	983	12	19	2	136	57.82	3	5
13	Pataudi (Nawab of)		946	14	25	2	203*	41.13	3	4
14	Merchant	VM	859	10	18	0	154	47.72	3	3
15	Jaisimha	ML	852	11	20	0	129	42.6	2	6
16	Wadekar	AL	840	14	28	1	91	31.11	0	6
17	Sehwag	V	821	17	29	1	117	29.32	2	4
18	Hazare	VS	803	12	19	2	164*	47.24	2	3
19	Umrigar	PR	770	17	28	2	147*	29.62	3	0
20	Laxman	VVS	766	17	28	3	75	30.64	0	6
21	Borde	CG	746	17	30	5	84	29.84	0	6
22	Gambhir	G	739	11	20	0	179	36.95	1	4
23	Kirmani	SMH	707	20	29	6	102	30.74	1	4
24	Sardesai	DN	674	11	20	1	87	35.47	0	6
25	Durani	SA	672	13	23	1	90	30.55	0	5
26	Pujara	CA	660	9	17	2	2068	44	2	1
27	Amarnath	M	656	11	19	1	95	36.44	0	5
28	Kunderan	BK	632	8	15	0	192	42.13	2	1
29	Roy	Pankaj	620	14	25	1	140	25.83	2	1
30	Mankad	MH	618	11	18	1	184	36.35	1	4
31	Nadkarni	RG	553	10	18	5	122*	42.54	1	3

*187 players have batted against England

INDIA BOWLING AGAINST ENGLAND

S No	Names		Wkts	M	Balls	Maidens	Runs	Best	SI	10M	Ave
1	Chandrasekhar	BS	95	23	6199	249	2591	8-79	8	0	27.27
2	Kumble	A	92	19	6434	259	2815	7-115	4	1	30.6
S No	Kapil Dev	N	85	27	6343	227	3174	6-91	4	0	37.34
4	Bedi	BS	85	22	7173	373	2539	6-71	4	0	29.87
5	Mankad	MH	54	11	4102	259	1249	8-55	3	1	23.13
6	Harbhajan Singh		45	14	3680	103	1764	5-51	3	0	39.2
7	Zaheer Khan		43	13	2744	122	1248	5-75	1	0	29.02
8	Prasanna	EAS	41	13	3475	142	1327	4-16	0	0	32.37
9	Doshi	DR	36	10	2724	148	992	6-102	2	0	27.56
10	Durani	SA	35	13	2950	148	1152	6-105	2	1	32.91
11	Sharma	I	35	11	2520	81	1341	7-74	1	0	38.31
12	Shastri	RJ	30	20	4256	180	1629	4-83	0	0	54.3

*In all 132 players have bowled to England batsmen

England Vs India

ENGLAND BATTING AGAINST INDIA

S No	Player		Runs	M	Inn	NO	HS	Ave	100s	50s
1	Cook	AN	1735	20	35	3	294	54.22	5	7
2	Gooch	GA	1725	19	33	2	333	55.65	5	8
3	Pietersen	KP	1581	16	28	1	202*	58.56	6	6
4	Gower	DI	1391	24	37	6	200*	44.87	2	6
5	Barrington	KF	1355	14	21	3	172	75.28	3	9
6	Bell	IR	1343	20	35	3	235	41.97	4	4
7	Botham	IT	1201	14	17	0	208	70.65	5	5
8	Gatting	MW	1155	16	27	6	207	55	3	3
9	Boycott	G	1084	13	22	3	246*	57.05	4	2
10	Vaughan	MP	1016	9	16	2	197	72.57	4	3
11	Amiss	DL	965	14	24	1	188	41.96	2	4
12	Strauss	AJ	929	12	22	1	128	44.24	3	3
13	Greig	AW	883	13	18	2	148	55.19	3	5
14	Lamb	AJ	877	13	22	2	139	43.85	3	4
15	Fletcher	KWR	874	19	29	7	123*	39.73	2	7
16	Hussain	N	824	10	16	1	155	54.93	4	2
17	Graveney	TW	805	11	18	3	175	53.67	2	3
18	Prior	MJ	730	15	23	4	103*	38.42	1	5
19	Atherton	MA	689	7	13	1	160	57.42	2	4
20	Knott	APE	685	16	23	1	90	31.14	0	5
21	Cowdrey	MC	653	8	11	2	160	72.56	3	2
22	Smith	MJK	639	11	18	2	100	39.94	1	4
23	Root	JE	611	6	9	3	154*	101.83	2	4
24	Collingwood	PD	597	8	15	2	134*	45.92	2	2
25	Pullar	G	579	6	8	0	131	72.38	2	3
26	Stewart	AJ	569	9	15	1	87	40.64	0	5
27	Hammond	WR	555	6	9	2	217	79.29	2	1
28	Denness	MH	546	8	12	1	118	49.64	2	1
29	Tavare	CJ	527	9	14	1	149	40.54	1	3
30	Hutton	L	522	7	11	2	150	58	2	2
31	Smith	RA	507	6	12	4	121*	63.38	2	4
32	Ballance	GS	503	5	7	0	156	71.86	2	2
33	Watkins	AJ	502	8	11	1	137*	50.2	1	3

*253 players have batted against India

ENGLAND BOWLING AGAINST INDIA

S No	Player		Wkts	M	Balls	Maidens	Runs	Best	5I	10M	Ave
1	Anderson	JM	82	19	4461	191	2209	5-42	3	0	26.94
2	Willis	RGD	62	17	2941	96	1441	6-53	3	0	23.24
3	Underwood	DL	62	20	4995	322	1699	5-84	1	0	27.4
4	Botham	IT	59	14	3371	131	1558	7-48	6	1	26.41
5	Trueman	FS	53	9	1784	78	787	8-31	2	0	14.85
6	Broad	SCJ	46	12	2419	113	1074	6-25	2	0	23.35
7	Lever	JK	45	10	2116	69	995	7-46	3	1	22.11
8	Bedser	AV	44	7	1849	90	577	7-49	4	2	13.11
9	Old	CM	43	11	1879	70	821	5-21	1	0	19.09
10	Swann	GP	41	10	2570	78	1340	6-106	2	0	32.68
11	Verity	H	38	6	1632	105	615	7-49	1	1	16.18
12	Hoggard	MJ	36	10	2212	104	1046	6-57	1	0	29.06
13	Panesar	MS	36	11	3065	110	1474	6-81	2	1	40.94
14	Edmonds	PH	33	14	3747	222	1346	4-31	0	0	40.79
15	Illingworth	R	31	8	2148	144	592	6-29	2	0	19.1

*In all 172 players have bowled to Indian batsmen

THE BIG PICTURE



SJFI president Subodh Malla Barua presenting the 'Certificate of Excellence' award to gymnast Dipa Karmarkar on Friday evening.



Howzaat!... The Sports Challenge: V V Ramanan

1. Which capital city has hosted the Asian Games a record four time?
2. Which golf Major is always played at the same venue?
3. What is the nationality of Formula One legend Niki Lauda?
4. How many Indians have won the coveted Laureus Award?
5. Which footballer was called the 'Galloping Major'?
6. What major sporting event will be held at Gold Coast, Australia between April 4 and 15, 2018?
7. Denver Broncos won the 50th edition of which popular match-up this year?

Note: Answers to the quiz will be published on September 18, 2016.

(Ramanan is Deputy Sports Editor, THE HINDU)

Answers of September 16, 2016:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Eddie Hemmings. | 5. 1975. |
| 2. 3 metres. | 6. Manuel Aaron. |
| 3. New Zealand. | 7. Rs. 7.5 lakh. |
| 4. Anjum Chopra. | |

SJFI & OSJA THANK



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