

Bhubaneswar ROCKS

39TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

A FITTING FINALE

Geet Sethi, P.T.Usha felicitated, SWAB wins most titles

Champion cue sport player Geet Sethi and former 400m hurdler P. T. Usha stole the spotlight on the concluding day of the Sports Journalists' Federation of India's 39th Annual Convention at the Mayfair Convention Hall on September 18. Sethi, Usha and Y.B.Khurania, Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar and Achyuta Samanta, Founder Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) presented trophies and prizes to the winners of the team events (JK Bose Twenty20, Penalty Kicks, Quiz) and open events (Free Throws and Table Tennis).

South Zone won the prestigious JK Bose Twenty20 title, player of the cricket tournament, Sport Writers' Association of Bangalore (SWAB) won the table tennis men's doubles, Quiz and Free Throws. The Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association (TNSJA) won the A C Bali Team and Mn's singles titles. The SJFI team won the penalty kicks competition.

The SJFI conferred the Honorary Lifetime Membership to Sethi and Usha. At its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Nagpur on June 26, 2016, the SJFI chose six former sportspersons – Sethi, Usha, Michael Ferreira, Chuni Goswami, Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri --- for the award.

Both Sethi and Usha said that India must give its sportspersons world class infrastructure, training, injury management support and nutrition in order to deliver results at major international events and if such a scenario takes place there is a bright chance of India winning 20 odd medals at the 2024 Olympics.



My Halcyon days



I must admit to being a little envious whenever I read of exploits at the JK Bose convention of sports journalists. When I say exploits I don't mean only the ones on the field

although being chroniclers of sport we could never be poor sportsmen. We must pretend to be graceful even when we put down that dolly catch or miss reading the spin on the table tennis ball.

Life as a sports journalist somehow seems far rosier. Mine were spent in halcyon days when the itinerant cricket writer's job seemed the best one in the world. Writing across negative time differences can be hazardous but when we tour Australia or New Zealand the job resembles legitimate theft. One of the reasons I clung on for years in high profile cricket was I had never heard of a sports journalist dying young or suffering dreadful heart attacks when young.

Looking back, I still believe the happiest days were those when we lived on the sidelines in the reflected glory of our early

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champions of cricket in people like Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev setting international standards in the sport at home and abroad. To see a young Sachin Tendulkar's career bloom from day one made memories that will remain etched in gold. How intensely we would discuss the theories of the game leading to such arguments!

Dealing with the real world as an Editor may seem more imposing but it drains you so much you end up being a far less happy person. The cheeriness brought on by a good

sporting performance somehow stayed on to light up the rest of the day. Dealing with the terror events and the disasters of the day while having to put with the shenanigans of politicians and their forked tongues day after day in the Indian context is a negative process that scars the outlook to life.

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One parting shot at a JK Bose convention is very much on my list of desirable things to do before retiring from work that has already gone on for well over four decades.

- R. Mohan



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LIVE & EXCLUSIVE ON*



P. V. Sindhu and her Rio Silver



Silver is it well established, is not radioactive material. Yet PV Sindhu's brand of silver at the Rio Olympics has the latent power to go beyond what the internet calls 'viral' and reach a condition called nuclear. Not the stuff of weaponry, but electricity.

We will understand its impact and hear about the ripples it creates only a decade or so later, through the voices and words of girls and boys who are only 10 or 12 today. Like we heard about Sindhu talking about her coach P Gopichand's All England title or Gopichand talk about listening to stories about the exploits of his coach Prakash Padukone.

Indian badminton has been one of the best

pieces of news to emerge from our sport over the last decade. The sport is on an upswing, led by the emergence of Saina Nehwal as well as strong men's performers out of Gopichand's Hyderabad badminton factory. Sindhu's medals at the 2013 and 2014 World Championships were part of the domino effect being felt within the badminton community. An increasing presence of Indians in top competition and on the rankings ladder proved that Indian badminton was going through its second and perhaps most powerful wave, twenty years after Prakash Padukone and Syed Modi walked onto on courts over the country and the world.

Until Rio, Nehwal was the sport's clear leader, holding her place in a

faster, fitter and extremely demanding, physical sport. Her London bronze and world No.1 ranking increased badminton's profile, grabbing attention and eyeballs in public and within the commercial ecosystem. Yet to a wider audience unfamiliar with the difference between a Super Series event from a Grand Prix, who got confused between Wang Yihan and Wang Shixian, Sindhu's silver has the power to become a landmark event. Not because the athlete puts in a greater or lesser effort for a bronze medal as compared to a silver or gold, but because of its resonance. On television, the biggest sporting event in the world, in the collective social media space, in the real time of our lives.

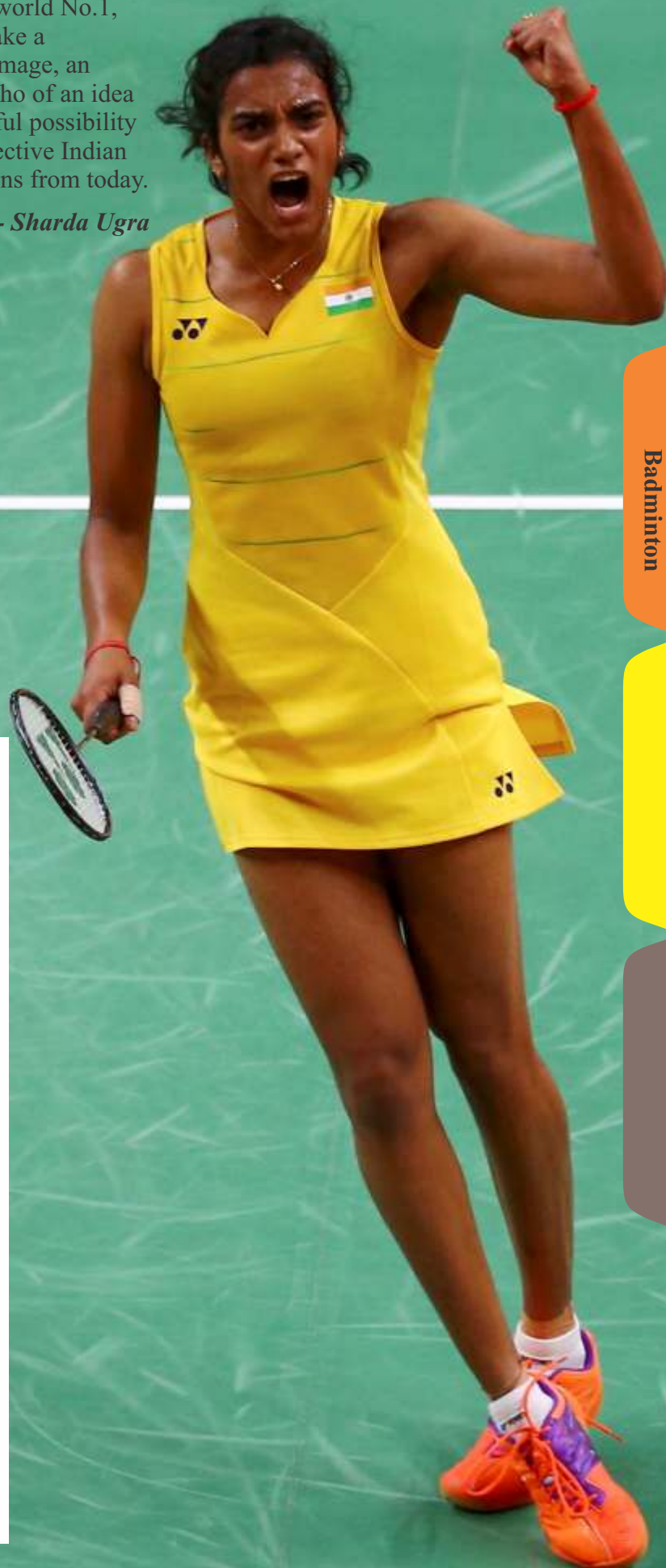


On court, the Rio final was a battle that stretched both competitors to their limits, left them exhausted and on the floor. Off court, the most startling figure to emerge from the Olympic badminton final was not the number of felicitation functions Sindhu turned up at or awards she was handed out on her return home. It the size of the estimated television audience that watched the final. Figures vary between Star TV's assessment of 17.2million and a Bangalore media tech start up called ZAPR which slotted it in at 66.5m. Either of those numbers makes the Olympic women's badminton final was the most watched non-cricket event on Star Sports – surpassing the Pro Kabaddi, UEFA football and the men's singles at Wimbledon.

The numbers of Indian athletes having a “billion” fans behind them are notional. But of the 17.2 million who are said to have watched, even if there was one percent under the age of 16, that's still more than one a half lakh of young people watching social and sporting convention being tossed aside. An

Indian girl, known for being an inconsistent giant slayer, had become a fighter for the big stage. When up against the world No.1, she did not take not take a backward step. It an image, an impression and the echo of an idea and a constant powerful possibility will live through collective Indian memory for generations from today.

- Sharda Ugra



Badminton

Olympic Games

2016 Rio de Janeiro	Women's singles
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World Championships

2013 Guangzhou	Women's Singles
2014 Copenhagen	Women's Singles

Uber Cup

2014 New Delhi	Team
2016 Kunshan	Team

Asian Games

2014 Incheon	Women's team
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Commonwealth Games

2014 Glasgow	Women's Singles
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Asia Championships

2014 Gimcheon	Women's Singles
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South Asian Games

2016 Guwahati	Women's Singles
2016 Guwahati	Women's Team

Asian Junior Championships

2011 Lucknow	Girl's Singles
2011 Lucknow	Mixed Team
2012 Gimcheon	Girl's Singles

Commonwealth Youth Games

2011 Douglas	Girl's Singles
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Quiz Winner

Sport Writers' Association of Bangalore
(SWAB)'C'



Satish Viswanathan, Akash Sarkar, R. Satya with
Achyuta Samanta (Founder: KIIT & KISS) 3rd from left



Roshan Thyagarajan, Abhishek Badkar, R.Satya with
Y.B.Khurania, Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar (2nd from left)

Free Throws Winner

Sport Writers' Association of Bangalore
(SWAB)

Penalty Kicks Winner

Sports Journalists' Federation of India
(SJFI) 'A' Team



Kirti Datta, Rakesh Dubey and Amitabha Das Sharma with
Y.B.Khurania, Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar (2nd from left)

ALL WINNERS

AC BALI (Singles) Winner



K. Keerthivasan with P. T. Usha



Shashank Kishore and Roshan Thyagarajan with P. T. Usha

AC BALI (Doubles) Winner



Swaroop Swaminathan, K. Keerthivasan, T. N. Raghu with P. T. Usha

AC BALI (Team) Winner



Sri Krishna with Geet Sethi

Man of the Series (J K BOSE Twenty20)

THE BIG PICTURE



South Zone: Winner... J K BOSE Twenty20

Answers of September 18, 2016:

1. Lala Amarnath.
2. Florence Griffiths-Joyner at the 1988 Seoul Games.
3. Men's single sculls rowing.
4. He is the hawk who keeps away the pigeons.
5. Wrestling.
6. Grand National.
7. World Trade Center in NY.

SJFI & OSJA THANK



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