



12th SAG2016: Gold rush continues for Indian Shuttlers

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Shillong: Indian shuttlers made a clean sweep-clinching seven Gold and five Silver Medals in the Multi-Nation Badminton event that came to an end on Wednesday.

In the Men's Singles, Kidambi Srikanth rallied from a game down to beat H.S. Prannoy 11-21, 21-14, 21-6. After the initial hiccup, India's top-ranked shuttler among the Men took control of the proceedings to register a comfortable 2-1 win and claim Gold.

Eighteen-year-old Ruthvika Shivani Gadde earned plaudits at the 12th South Asian Games when she outclassed World No.12 PV Sindhu in straight games to clinch Gold in the Badminton Women's Singles final here on Wednesday.

Shivani, who picked up the racquet at the tender age of seven, made it to the final riding on a comfortable 21-5, 21-5 win over Nepal's Nangsal Tamang, and eased past the experienced Sindhu 21-11 in the first game. The second set brought the best out of both shuttlers, and despite trailing at one stage, Shivani rallied to take the set 22-20 to create the biggest upset of the Games.

"I was just focused on my game. Before stepping into the court, I had that nervous feeling given that she is a big player. But as the match wore on, I grew with confidence and forgot about the same and played my shots," Shivani said.

"I had never won even a single set against her in the past. To beat her in straight sets, this was unexpected. But I am happy the way I played," said Shivani.



In the Women's Doubles, India's doubles Badminton specialist Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa eased past Mannesha Kukapalli and N. Sikki Reddy without much fuss to clinch the Gold.

Manu Atri - Sumeeth Reddy also outsmarted Akshay Devalkar and Pranav Jerry Chopra in the Men's Doubles 21-18, 21-17 to bag Gold in their category.



In the Mixed Doubles, Chopra-Reddy won the mixed doubles competition after overcoming a strong challenge from Manu Atri and Ponnappa, who went down 30-29, 21-17.

The Results (Finals, all Indians):

Men's Singles: K. Srikanth bt H.S. Prannoy 11-21, 21-14, 21-6;

Men's Doubles: Manu Atri & Sumeeth Reddy bt Akshay Dewalkar & Pranav Jerry Chopra 21-18, 21-17.

Women's Singles: Ruthvika Shivani Gadde bt P.V. Sindhu 21-11, 22-20;

Women's Doubles: G. Jwala & Ashwini Ponappa bt Sikki Reddy & K. Maneesha 21-9, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: Pranav Chopra & Sikki Reddy bt Manu Atri & Ashwini Ponappa 30-29, 21-17.
