

Singapore Open finalists Praneeth, Srikanth wear black armbands in homage to deceased BAI Chief

Abhijit Bharali April 19, 2017



(Singapore Open Champion Praneeth wearing a black armband)

The two Indian finalists in the Singapore Open, B Sai Praneeth and Kidambi Srikanth, wore black armbands in the Title match to pay homage to the recently deceased President of the Badminton Association of India, Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta.

Dr. Das Gupta, 56, died on April 12th. He was a prominent politician, a former Mayor of Lucknow, and a prominent figure in the Indian Badminton scene. He was also a Rajya Sabha MP for 18 years.

In the final, Praneeth got the better of Srikanth 17-21, 21-17, 21-12 and both players wore commemorative armbands in memory of Dr. Gupta. BAI officials confirmed the black band development earlier today.

During Das Gupta's tenure at the helm of BAI, both Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu won Olympic Medals in 2012 and 2016 respectively. He became the President of BAI in 2011 after controversially ousting VK Verma. **It was during Dr. Gupta's time at the helm of the BAI that Indian Badminton reached its current heights, aptly culminating in the historical final between Praneeth and Srikanth in the Singapore Open. So, perhaps it was fitting that both players paid homage to Dr. Gupta, who has had a big hand in the development of Indian Badminton over the years.**
