

## DOWNTOWN

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YOUR LOCAL WEEKLY TABLOID ♦ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

## 6 DOWNTOWN SPORTS

THE HINDU • SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008

## Sathiyam, Commonwealth Youth Games champion, felicitated

So much expectations and hope lie on the tender and slim shoulders of the paddler G. Sathiyam. For all his achievements and the accolades he has received, Sathiyam has remained truly humble and has his feet firmly grounded. His focus all along has been to notch victories at the highest level.

## Stupendous show

Recently, Sathiyam's school—Kola Perumal Chetty Vaishnav SSS—felicitated the 15-year-old for his stupendous show—winning three gold medals in cadet category (under-15) in singles, doubles and team events of the International Table Tennis Federation junior circuit, and claiming two gold medals in the Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune.

N. Nagaraju, Regional Officer, Central Board of Secondary Education (Chennai) praised the school management for encouraging an exceptional talent like Sathiyam. "He should capitalise on this encouragement. He will be our second Abhinav Bindra."

Three-time National champion V. Chandrasekar, Sathiyam's mentor, praised the teenager's parents for their devotion and dedication in supporting their son through thick and thin. He said that the biggest strength of Sathiyam's parents was that they never "scolded" him whenever he lost.

They were always calm and patient," he said. Neelakanta Pillai, Principal, Kola Perumal Chetty Vaishnav SSS, said "we feel proud to hold a function like this. It's not a



**CHAMPION'S SUCCESS RIDE:** G. Sathiyam with the bike presented to him. Others: (From left) Govind Das Purushotham Das, N. Nagaraju and Neelakanta Pillai.

normal function." Govind Das Purushotham Das, Correspondent, said Sathiyam's feat would inspire others to take up the sport.

Sathiyam thanked everybody-his

school, his parents, his two sisters, his friends and his coach and academy for their unstinted support. "If not for you, I would not have been standing here," he said. Sathiyam was

presented with a Scooty bike and a gold bracelet by his school. Divya Sudha, Assistant School Pupil Leader and Sathiyam's classmate said "we are proud to be his friend. We hope

to continue the friendship." A power-point presentation on Sathiyam's achievements was made at the beginning.

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENT