

Nadia girl brings home two yoga golds

SUBHASISH CHAUDHURI

Calcutta: Ten-year-old Debrupa Nag from Nadia has turned a near-shattered dream into a double-gold triumph, winning both the Traditional Yoga and Artistic Yoga categories at the third Asia Pacific Yogasana Sports Championship in Bangkok, Thailand, last week.

Debrupa, a Class V student of Nabadwip Girls' School, emerged champion in both categories at the September 5-7 championship, securing her berth in the World Yogasana Championship scheduled for December in Visakhapatnam.

She returned home to Teghoripara in Nabadwip on Thursday morning through the Dum Dum airport, the Indian Tricolour in her hand, to a warm welcome from residents and the sports fraternity.

Barely a fortnight before the event, Debrupa was unsure whether she could travel to Bangkok. The self-sponsored trip required around ₹2 lakh towards airfare and other expenses for her and her father, Srikanta Nag, whose presence was mandatory under the organisers' rules.

The cloud over her dream lifted after **The Telegraph** published a report on August 27 highlighting her financial predicament. The Emami group stepped in, arranging round-trip air tickets from Calcutta to Bangkok for Debrupa and her father and providing other necessary support, together valued at ₹2 lakh.

"Without the support of the Emami group, my daughter's dream would never have been fulfilled. We will remain ever grateful for their unique gesture," said Debrupa's mother, Tatini Nag, a former mountaineer who now works as a private tutor to support



Debrupa Nag at home with her medals and trophy on Thursday.

Picture by Dibakar Das

the family.

Recalling the uncertainty before her Bangkok trip, Debrupa said: "There was a time when I was really sad because I didn't know if I could even go to the championship in Bangkok. But then Emami Foundation helped me. Without its support, I would hardly have been able to stand on that podium to receive the medals. I want to say a big thank you to my parents, my coaches, Emami Foundation and everyone who told me never to stop believing in my dream."

Congratulating her, Emami Group founder and joint chairman R.S. Goenka said: "It gives me immense joy to see Debrupa achieve this remarkable feat and bring glory to both Bengal and the nation."

"I read a story in **The Telegraph** about her struggle to raise funds for the championship. It moved me deeply. It seemed that a little girl with extraordinary talent and determination was on the verge of missing an opportunity she had worked so hard for, simply because of financial constraints. I decided to act immediately. It was clear to us that she deserved every chance to represent the country on the international stage. To see her return with two gold medals is deeply gratifying," he said.

He added that the Emami Foundation was committed to identifying and supporting promising young sportspersons in the coming days.

Her next challenge, however, has already begun: raising funds for the World Yogasana Championship to be held in Visakhapatnam in December, for which she requires around ₹60,000.