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BADMINTON COURT AT RAJ BHAVAN INAUGURATED

Itanagar, October 7: The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh General (Retd) J.J. Singh along with State First Lady Anupama Singh inaugurated the Raj Bhavan Badminton court at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on October 7 last. With a ceremonial match between the Governor and First lady, badminton court was declared open for players.

Secretary to Governor, Shri Ankur Garg, Itanagar Capital Complex Deputy Commissioner Shri Sanjay Goel, PWD Executive Engineers Er. Gumnya Padu and Er. Tana Nikham Tara, Raj Bhavan officers, other officials and their family members were present on the occasion.

Interacting with the players and officers and officials of the Raj Bhavan, the Governor expressed his hope that the sports facility will boost the physical and mental health of the officials and players. He exhorted them to use it properly and avail maximum benefit out of the facility.

To commemorate the occasion, a tournament for men's and ladies' doubles was organized. In a closely fought match, the final in men's double was won by Shri Ankur Garg and Sqn. Ldr. Rajesh Punia defeating the team of Shri Sanjay Goel and Maj. Kuldeep Dabral. The ladies' award was won by the team of Dr. Tripti Dabral and Smti Monika Punia defeating Smti Shalini Goel and Smti Takam Sharmila.

PWD Assistant Engineer Er. Ipe Basar informed that newly constructed court has a plinth area of 272.50 Sqm and was built in seven months.

Earlier, initiating the inaugural function, Sqn Ldr Rajesh Punia gave brief background of the game of badminton. He informed that the beginnings of badminton can be traced to mid-18th century British India, where it was created by British military officers stationed there. Early photographs show Englishmen adding a net to the traditional English game of battledore and shuttlecock. The sport is related to ball badminton, which originated in Tamil Nadu, and is similar to Hanetsuki which originated in Japan. Being particularly popular in the British garrison town Poona (now Pune), the game also came to be known as Poona. Initially, balls of wool referred as ball badminton were preferred by the upper classes in windy or wet conditions, but ultimately the shuttlecock stuck.

This game was taken by retired officers back to England where it developed and rules were set out. Although it appears clear that Badminton House, Gloucestershire, owned by the Duke of Beaufort, has given its name to the sports, it is unclear when and why the name was adopted. In 1893, the Badminton Association of England started the All England Open Badminton Championships, the first badminton competition in the world, in 1899.

Since then the game has been always evolving and in 1992 it became an Olympic Sport. And in this year, Olympic Saina Nehwal did India proud by winning the first badminton medal for our country, Sqn Ldr Punia concluded, **a Rajbhawan release informs.**

Sd/ D.Dodum, PRO