

# MID DAY

MID-DAY, Tuesday, May 9, 2000

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sports

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

By Mufeed Mahdi Rizvi

BACK in 1964 Padmashri awardee Taranath Shenoy created ripples in the Mahatma Gandhi Swimming Pool water when he set a new meet record.

Around 36 years later son, Anukul Shenoy clocked 35.38 seconds to win the Group V, 50 metres butterfly stroke event in the GMAAA organised Sub-Junior and Junior Age Group Aquatic Championship, at the same venue yesterday.

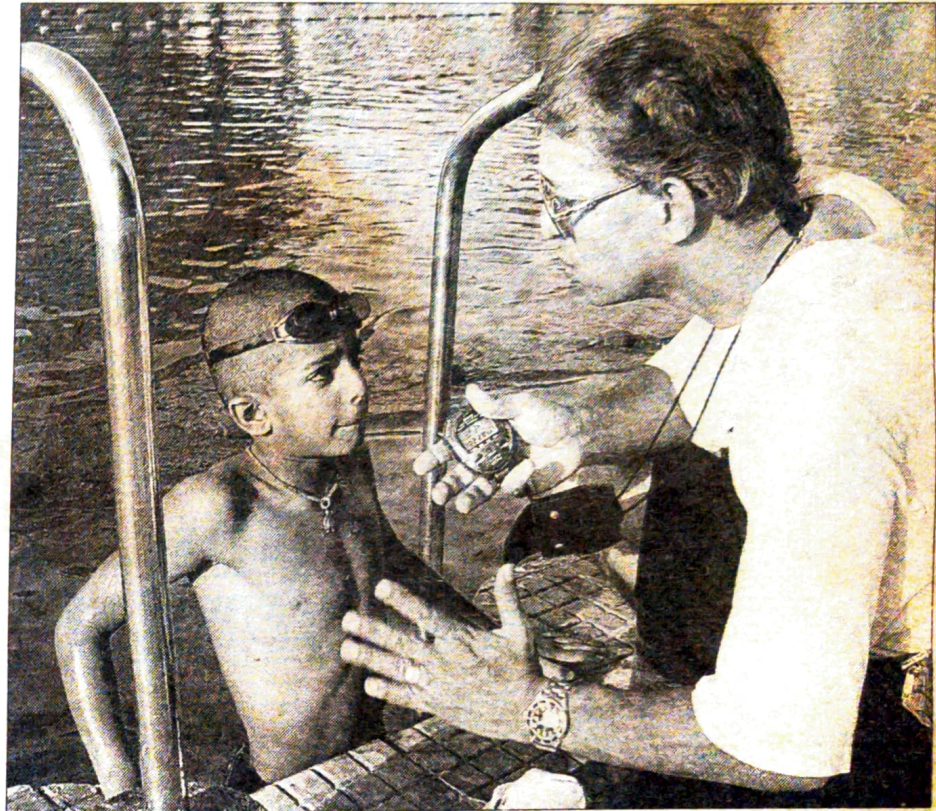
Anukul was overjoyed by the feat, he ran towards the small garden adjoining the premises to inform his friends about it. Later, he spoke at length with this correspondent on how he loves swimming and also shared his dream.

### Padmashree awardee Taranath Shenoy wants son Anukul to win medals at the Asian Games and the Olympics

However, the time and situation was different when Taranath had won the event. He was obviously overjoyed like his son, but could not speak much about his achievement and plans to anyone. Well, Taranath is hearing impaired.

But that did not stop him or force him to withdraw into his own world. He spoke, and spoke aloud, so that the entire world could hear him. "My father swam across 14 seas," claims the proud son Anukul. "When I won the race in '64 it was a difficult one. We did not have goggles or caps and when we swam, we could hardly see the wall ahead of us," he asked Anukul to complete the sentence.

Taranath feels delighted that his son can have everything he couldn't in



**WATERBOYS:** Anukul Shenoy with his father Taranath. Picture by Vijayanand Gupta

those days. He loves his son as much as he loves swimming.

"He was two months old when I used to bring him here (MGMO). He used to splash his legs in the water. I always wanted my son to be a famous swimmer. He used to float in the water while I kept a watch on him," Taranath conveyed the story through his son, who kept thanking people for their compliments.

Anukul also broke the 50 metres free style record on Sunday. "You

know something, when I started swimming at the age of two, I had learned all strokes except butterfly and today I am a fly champion," he said while pointing out towards a boy who was leading the race in lane No 5. "Look, he is my best friend, Niket Iyer."

A member of the Mulund Swimming Pool, Anukul walked away with the individual championship in the Group V category. Pa Shenoy was thrilled by his son's performance, but stood humbly in one corner. "This

record is good, but I want him to win the Asian Games and the Olympic gold," said Taranath, who is also Anukul's coach, hinting his wish.

Now Shenoy Jr is eight-and-a-half years old and plans to accomplish his father's unaccomplished task. "I would love to send my son to America for better training, but I cannot afford that at the moment," signaled Taranath, who is employed with Central Railway as head clerk (sports department).