

TCSers join the 54th Indian Independence Day Celebration and Cricket Tournament

– An article by Srinath Vojjala

It was Sunday the 12 of August, Enthusiastic and Colourful crowd of Tricity descended at the nearby Lush green River Road park at around 2:00 PM to celebrate the 54th Independence day of India. The crowd included American families and their friends, tri-city association members and their families, and most of the family members of Top software consulting companies like TCS, Rapidgm, Satyam, Adecco etc, who are currently on assignments at the three cities namely Albany, Schenectady and Troy (Tri-City). The celebrations began with a decision to Host Tri-coloured Indian National Flag during drinks break of the pre-planned cricket matches. The organizers divided the players into four teams namely A, B, C and D respectively. Team A (Captain – Sridhar Lomite) played with Team B (Captain- Karthik Natesan) and Team C (Captain – Ravi Kandarpa) played with Team D (Captain- Shantharam).

During drinks break after half way down for both the matches, around 100 people who were present at the park gathered at the venue to hoist the Indian Tricolour Flag. Honorable member of Capital District Indian Fellowship, Mrs. Olive Ezekiel explained the importance of Tri-colours , viz, Saffron, White and Green and the Ashoka Chakra in the Indian national flag.

- **The Saffron stands for courage and sacrifice of the freedom fighters who laid their lives to achieve the freedom**
- White symbolises the purity, truth and peace
- **Green represents the prosperity and fertility**

There is a wheel with 24 spokes in the middle of the white coloured part of the flag known as Ashoka-Chakra. The wheel represents the unity and the togetherness of various states and cultures of India, the motherland of all of us.

Then Sam requested Sanjay's father, Ramesh Chandra, a veteran of 65 years and an elderly person among the gathering to hoist the National Flag, who gladly accepted the invitation and hoisted the national flag. Then the gathering sang the National Anthem and saluted the National Flag and then collectively shouted Vande-Maataram. Then the lady folk distributed sweets on this festive and historic occasion.

Many Americans, who were present on this occasion, felt very glad to know and appreciated the inner meaning of Tri-colours and Ashoka Chakra of the Indian National flag.

Shifting focus to Cricket, All the four Teams are divided in such a way that the teams are equally strong. The results of all the four matches could be decided only at the Final over of the match that reflects how balanced the Teams are. Team – A and Team – D entered the finals by beating their opponents. Crucial final was a tie and as the Sun was calling

his day off, organizers decided to play a three over match and later reduced to two over in which Team-D won comfortably.

The following players who have delighted the crowd with their swashbuckling performances need special mention: -

Om-Prakash – Who hit a lusty knock of unbeaten 58 which included 5 Sixes and 3 fours

Sam-Puthur – A quick-fire knock of 66 in 22 balls which included 5 sixes and 4 fours

Shantha-Ram – Deadly bowling spell and an excellent batting.

Karthik – Known for his best bowling had three important wickets

Sharath – An excellent knock of 45 which included 2 fours and 2 sixes and economical bowling

Ravi – Tight spell bowling with 2 wickets

Venkatesh – Did well with bowl and bat

Yash – An excellent tight initial bowling spell and lusty hits to the fence including a huge Six.

Srinath –Who did not score much in both the matches, came back in the crucial final tie. He hit three Sixes in crucial Final tie break and excellent bowling spell with a maiden over in the finals, claiming 2 wickets in successive balls in the final over of the match to win the finals.

John – American playing cricket for the first time who hit some lusty shots as an opener in the crucial Final match between Team – A and Team – D

Sujan – Playing cricket first time in his life batted well to the best bowlers to provide enough support to the team-D, which eventually won the Finals.

Basav- As he is called Basav-the bull, batted sensibly not to loose wickets and hitting the loose balls but unfortunately his innings came to an end with a run-out, but by the time his team came to a close victory. His wicket-keeping was exceptional on this day, and he took totally 6 catches, and did one stumping and one run-out.

Sridhar Ralli– Very good bowling and claimed two wickets and at one moment missed hatrick.

Senapathy- Delighted the crowd with his misfielding.

Vardha – Played well

Raghu Nagabhusanappa – Chipped in with 9 useful runs

Summary of Total score card: -

			RESULT
Match-1, 12 Overs	Team-A 104	Team-B 104	TIE
3 Overs Match	40	20	TEAM-A WON
Match-2 12 Overs	TEAM-C 59	TEAM-D 69	TEAM-D WON
	FINALS		RESULT
	TEAM-A	TEAM-D	
12 Overs	69	69	TIE
2-Over Match	13	30	TEAM-D WINNERS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY TROPHY

It was festive and fun all over at the park, Balloons of Tri-colours were visible all over the park and about hundred people who were at the park enjoyed the Independence Day celebrations. We had music and refreshments throughout the day. Prizes were distributed to the winning team during dusk by the organizers. Thanks to Karthik and organizers who gave us an excellent opportunity to celebrate the 54th Indian Independence Day in a big way.