

## Kerala teacher's song greets Olympics on Chinese radio

Much before the 2008 Olympics began, M.C. Vasisht, a history teacher here, had his moment of fame in Beijing when China Radio International (CRI) broadcast his song on the event.

'It was a song greeting the Olympics. I had penned the lyrics back in July 2001 when Beijing won the bid for the games,' Vasisht told IANS.

The song was aired on the Hindi channel of CRI July 20.

'I heard that they repeatedly broadcast the song on the channel. It is a simple song - 'The whole of China is celebrating, celebrating the arrival of Olympics', he said.

An ardent sports fan, Vasisht has many songs and poems on sports to his credit. His anthology of cricket poems is titled 'Night Watchman' while his collection of football poems is called 'The Last Penalty Kick'.

A teacher at the Malabar Christian College in Kozhikode, he said his love for sports is for the oneness it generates.

'I am a student of history. History dissipates boundaries. Likewise, sports, cinema and popular music are also without frontiers.'

Vasisht, who is in his 40s, said that his lyrical tryst with the Olympics was indeed very special.

'The song was composed by Sai Giridhar and was sung by Hani Raman. Both of them were my students,' he said.

It was two years ago that the history teacher sent a CD of the song to the CRI correspondent in New Delhi, who forwarded it to the headquarters in Beijing.

'In June 2007 I got an e-mail from CRI acknowledging the receipt of the song. They contacted me in April this year asking for an interview. But it did not take place,' Vasisht said.

On July 16, he got a mail from CRI informing him that his song would be broadcast on their Hindi channel July 20. But Vasisht could not hear his song on radio as he could not tune into CRI.

The composer of the song, Sai Giridhar, was ecstatic that his music was broadcast on CRI.

'It was a wonderful experience. We never expected this when we did the song,' said Giridhar, a jeweller by profession now.

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