

# Overcoming initial hurdles to follow their favour

## profile

### kadambari chheda

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**MULUND:** The drop shots have been her trade mark. She has impressed many with the placement over the years.

Badminton player Kadambari Chheda shuttles between her home in Dombivli, Mulund and Matunga for her daily activities. But she never gives up on anything.

The fighting spirit in Chheda has made her a champion in her own right. Born and brought up in Mulund, Chheda shifted to Dombivli a few years ago but her heart is always at Mulund where she continues to train in badminton at Kalidas Sports Complex under her long-time coach Rajeev Ganpule. She began badminton more than a decade ago and has remained her passion since.

Chheda leaves home early in the morning for Mulund to train for three hours. Then, she makes her way to Ruia College at Matunga, where she is currently in second year, Bachelor of Arts. She returns to Mulund to resume her training before going back home late evening.



■ Kadambari Chheda is now a major force in women's badminton.

PRAFUL GANGURDE

The 20-year-old Chheda helped Mumbai University win the women's title in the all-India inter-university badminton championship in Mangalore. She was also part of the state team at the senior nationals in Guwahati.

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**I was inspired by former national champion Aparna Popat. I have a lot of admiration for Prakash Padukone, who took this game to a new high.**

KADAMBARI CHHEDA,  
Badminton player

tion for Prakash Padukone, who took this game to a new high," said Chheda.

Coach Ganpule is optimistic about his ward making it big at the international stage soon. "She has tremendous potential to make it big one day. Her forehand-backhand combination seems to be lethal which can turn the table in her favour

any given time," he said.

Reading and listening to Bollywood numbers has been her pastime. Chheda began participating in international events in 2006. She took part in 6-Star international tournament in Indonesia that year. Her second international fixture was the junior international tournament in Indonesia in April 2008, where she entered the second round. "It was one of the finest moments of my life when I cleared the first hurdle at an international meet," said Chheda.

Chheda scaled to number 1 in the national ranking in junior girl's doubles in early 2008 and became number 4 in singles that year. She remained number 4 in national ranking in under-16, under-13 and under-10. She was the runners-up in Junior Girls Doubles in All India Ranking Tournaments held at Cochin and Bangalore in June 2008. Prior to this, she had won Shafi Qureshi Cup, representing Maharashtra state in junior national championships in Nellore (Andhra) in December 2007.

She has had a good record in inter-school nationals, where she won two gold and a silver. Over a dozen state titles has added to her impressive profile, making her a force to reckon with.

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