

BWF Rankings: Sindhu cracks top five



HYDERABAD: Olympic Silver Medallist PV Sindhu achieved another high in her career as she became the second Indian woman to break into the top-5 of World rankings.

Former World No.1 Saina Nehwal is only other Indian woman to achieve this honour.

The lanky shuttler from Hyderabad, who broke into the top-10 in 2013 achieved her career-best ranking of No.5 in the rankings released by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Thursday.

Sindhu, who started 2016 at No.12 improved six places to finish the year at No.6 largely due to her Rio Olympics performance and for clinching the China Open Super Series Premier in November.

Sindhu was delighted and said No.1 rank remains her goal. "I'm really very happy for achieving a career high rank of No.5," Sindhu told TOI. "When I started playing in 2016 I never thought I would break into top-5 within a year. This is quite unexpected," she added.

Sindhu hoped to reach No.3 by the end of the year. "I want to do well and win tournaments. I want to be No.3 by the end of the year. But to achieve that I need to work really hard. Hopefully, I will give my best," said Sindhu, who started 2017 by winning the Premier Badminton League title and the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold.

Meanwhile, Saina remained static at No.9 while Ajay Jayaram is the top ranked Indian in Men's Singles at No.18. The Mixed Doubles pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki Reddy are at No.14 while Men's Doubles team of Sumeeth Reddy and Manu Attri dropped a place to No.24.
