

PV Sindhu is India's new hope for ending Chinese domination

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The Chinese must be dreading the sight of PV Sindhu. If there were any doubt in their mind about the potential of the lanky Hyderabad, it would have been cleared with the way the Asian Junior champion packed off defending World Champion Yihan Wang in her own backyard on Thursday in just their second meeting ever.

India's rising young star PV Sindhu, zoomed into the semifinals of the World Badminton Championships 2013 currently going on in Guangzhou, China. Sindhu beat her higher ranked opponent, Shixian Wang of China 21-18, 21-17 to ensure India a medal.

Badminton Association of India President Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta congratulated Sindhu on her historic performance and hoped that she would go on to achieve bigger glory on Saturday. "I congratulate Sindhu on reaching the semifinals and ensuring a medal. But she has the capability to go all the way in the tournament and I wish her all the luck in her endeavour."

This is also the 18-year-old Indian's first ever World Championship appearance. While beating Wang, she not only conquered two top Chinese players in-a-row but also beat a player who has been a former world number 1 and is currently ranked 5 against Sindhu's 12 in the world.

The legendary Prakash Padukone had bagged India's first ever World Championship bronze in 1983 at Copenhagen and in 2011 Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa became the first women's doubles pairing to reach the semifinals.

"I am very happy that everything went according to the plan. It is great to win a medal in my very first world championship appearance, but I want to now concentrate on tomorrow's match and not allow myself to relax," said Sindhu.

Chief National coach Pullela Gopichand was full of praise for Sindhu and said the youngster showed great composure and maturity to handle the pressure. "She played exceptionally well and was in control of the match throughout."

The Malaysian GP Gold Champion has made a habit of dominating the Chinese over the last year and has won five of her last seven meetings against players from the Badminton powerhouse. And the ever smiling youngster began all this with a convincing win over Li Xuerui, who was playing in her very first tournament after conquering the London Olympic gold.

Since then the Chinese have thrown players of different body types and styles of play but the 18-year-old has managed to get the better of most of them.
