



Congratulations to @Pvsindhul for the first ever world championships gold medal from India

SAINA NEHWAL



Hope this medal changes the attitude towards sports in our country and the deserving sportspersons get all the support to achieve this kind of a feat! Thank you Pvsindhul for this! You only proved that with the right kind of support we can conquer the world

GUTTA JWALA



Maiden gold medal on your mother's birthday - what a special win this must have been for you @Pvsindhul :) Congratulations! You have made us all so proud! BWFWorldChampionships2019

SURESH RAINA



Congrats @Pvsindhul on winning the Gold medal at #BWFWorldChampionships2019 Great exhibition of skill, fitness and mental strength to defeat Japan's Okuhara in such an emphatic fashion. Proud of you.

VVS LAXMAN



Amazing performance, @Pvsindhul! Congratulations on becoming the 1st ever [Indian] to win the BWF World Championships! You have made India proud, yet again.

SACHIN TENDULKAR



This has to be the most commanding performance by an Indian athlete, certainly in living memory. 21-7, 21-7. What a star @Pvsindhul. Great moment for Indian sport. What a day. Proud.

HARSH BHOGLE



PV Sindhu creates history by becoming the first-ever Indian to claim gold in BWF World Badminton Championships! India is proud of @Pvsindhul. My hearty congratulations! Govt will continue to provide best support & facilities to produce champions

KIREN RIJU, SPORTS MINISTER

# Sindhu scales a peak no Indian ever has

Blows away arch-rival Okuhara in the summit clash to win her first title of the year; proves third-time lucky after losing in the 2017 and '18 finals

**BADMINTON WORLDS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BASEL

P.V. Sindhu on Sunday scripted history as she became the first Indian to win badminton World Championships gold by beating arch-rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a lop-sided summit clash on Sunday.

The Olympic silver-medalist Indian won 21-7, 21-7 in the final that lasted just 38 minutes.

**Never-say-die attitude**

It was third time lucky for Sindhu who had lost to Okuhara and Carolina Marin of Spain respectively in the 2017 and 2018 finals to bag a silver twice. She had won a bronze each in the 2013 and 2014 editions.

Sindhu is now the joint highest medal winner in women's singles in the World Championships history with former Olympic champion Zhang Ning of China who has won an identical one gold, two silver and two bronze between 2001 and 2007.

The fifth seeded Indian, who enjoyed an 8-7 head-to-head lead over the third-seeded Okuhara ahead of Sunday's contest, was simply unstoppable as she dished out an attacking game right



**Joy and relief:** P.V. Sindhu oozed authority and class en route to becoming the first Indian to win the badminton World Championships gold. She had lost in the final in 2017 and 2018. ■ AP

## Simply sensational

**ROAD TO TITLE:**  
First round: Bye  
Second round: bt Pai Yu Po 21-14, 21-15  
Third round: bt Biewen Zhang 21-14, 21-6  
Quarterfinals: bt Tai Tzu Ying 12-21, 23-21, 21-19  
Semifinals: bt Chen Yu Fei 21-7, 21-14  
Final: bt Nozomi Okuhara 21-7, 21-7

■ Badminton Association of India (BAI) announces a cash reward of ₹20 lakh for Sindhu and ₹5 lakh for Sai Praneeth

**CAREER RECORD (WIN/LOSS)**  
Overall: **323/139**  
Win percentage: **69**  
In 2019: **19/9**  
Win percentage: **67**

**Prize money Career**  
**\$652118**  
In 2019  
**\$64972.50**

**It is a very important win for me. I want to thank the crowd for supporting me. I won it for my country and I am very proud being an Indian**

**TROPHY CABINET**  
**2019:** BWF World Championships, Basel  
**2018:** World Tour Finals, Guangzhou  
**2017:** Korea Open, Seoul  
India Open, New Delhi  
Syed Modi International, Lucknow  
**2016:** China Open, Fuzhou  
Malaysia Masters, Penang  
**2015:** Macau Open, Macau  
**2014:** Macau Open, Macau  
**2013:** Macau Open Grand Prix Gold, Macau  
Malaysia Grand Prix Gold, Bukit Kiara

**2012:** Badminton Asia Youth under-19 Championships, Gimcheon, Korea  
**2011:** Tata Open India International Challenge, Mumbai  
Swiss International, Belp, Berne  
Indonesia International Challenge, East Surabaya  
Maldives International Challenge, Maldives

## 'Sindhu can win all major events'



Prakash Padukone.  
■ FILE PHOTO: SUDHAKARA JAIN

**SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA** BENGALURU

Prakash Padukone believes P.V. Sindhu can go on to dominate women's badminton after her victory in the BWF World Championships in Basel on Sunday.

"If she can remain injury-free and choose the right tournaments, she can definitely win all the major tournaments and be World No.1 for a long time," Padukone told *The Hindu*.

"She's at her best right now. It's the first time an Indian has won the World Championships. I had a feeling she'd win today but I didn't expect that it would be so easy."

## 'It was a near-perfect game'

An elated Sindhu says her next goal is the Olympic gold

**EXCLUSIVE**

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM HYDERABAD

India's golden girl of the moment P.V. Sindhu says she played the best and most consistent badminton in recent times in the World championships.

In an exclusive chat with *The Hindu* after being crowned women's singles champion in Basel (Switzerland), Sindhu said she was fully prepared for the final and was in a much better frame of mind.

"Honestly, I was expecting a long battle, given Okuhara's reputation. But, I am glad that I could peak at the right time and never really let the lead slip away," Sind-

**I was at my best in this World championship and that was the key to my success**

hu said.

"Definitely, the Korean coach Kim Ji Jyun's inputs and Gopi sir's guidance were major plus points in my campaign," she said. "I must say Kim has her own effective style of getting the best out of me," she added.

"I never felt any pressure before entering what was my third final. I just wanted to give my best shot and didn't bother whether I would win or not when the final started," she revealed. "The best part is there were very few unforced errors and it was a near-perfect game," she said

with a big smile.

"Well, I didn't expect it to be such a one-sided final but I must say I played as well I could in the most important match of the championship," Sindhu said. "I was really dominating from the start," she added.

**Not a conscious ploy**

"It was not a conscious ploy to attack right from the first game but since every aspect of my game was falling in place, I just ensured that the momentum never really slipped away. I am immensely delighted with what is the most important win of my career," she said.

"I can't say whether there was any specific turning point in the championship but I must repeat that I was

at my best in this World championship over a week and that was the key to my success," Sindhu said.

**Biggest gift**

"Yes, this is the biggest gift I could give to my mother who is celebrating her birthday today and I dedicate this win to my parents, grandparents, coaches, all the support staff at the Gopi Academy and fellow-players who have always been there with me," she said.

"Well, one goal is achieved and the next one is there – Olympics. I will really work hard and will prepare to win that one also by doing well in the Super Series in the run-up to the Tokyo Games next year," an elated Sindhu concluded.

## PARA BADMINTON

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM HYDERABAD

India had another world champion in Basel on Sunday when the 30-year-old Manasi Joshi, who also trains at the Gopi Chand Academy here, clinched the women's singles SL3 gold defeating World No. 1 and compatriot Parul Parmar 21-12, 21-7. This was her maiden title in the BWF Para World badminton championship.

"It feels great to be called a World champion. Never easy for any athlete and more so for someone like me who had to face adversity on all fronts to script this golden moment in my career," said Manasi in an exclusive chat with *The Hindu* from Basel.

"The competition was ve-



Manasi Joshi.  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

her third appearance in the Worlds (she won a bronze in 2017). "It was a terrific experience to play at the same venue, share corridors with the other badminton greats. It makes you feel that you are there with the elite," she said.

What was Gopi's advice? "To stay calm, play clear strokes and just be focused. Not think about what happened or what is going to happen," said Manasi.

"It was great to be treated on par with the regular players and I hope life will change, after having sacrificed everything for this golden moment, in terms of better recognition and support, especially like getting world class equipment to chase my dream of winning a gold in Paralympics and the next Asian Games."

**Good augury**

Padukone felt Sindhu's win augured well for her chances of winning gold at next year's Olympics but he also cautioned against putting too much pressure on the 24-year-old.

"Now that she's won a very important event, and that too very convincingly, it should give her a lot of confidence going into the Olympics. I hope she will be able to repeat this performance there. But it's not something we should take for granted. We should not put too pressure on her. It's important she takes little breaks in between, tries to peak at the right time," he said.

Sindhu had faltered in successive finals before crossing the line on Sunday but Padukone stated that he had never doubted her ability.

"Earlier, when people asked if she would ever win, I maintained that she definitely would," he said. "I knew it was just a matter of time and a little experience. Even now she's very young. She has a bright future."

# Rahane, Vihari and bowlers pile on the misery for WI

The hosts, pursuing a target of 419, reduced to 15 for five at tea with Bumrah and Ishant on fire

**INDIA IN WI**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Ajinkya Rahane scored his first Test century in two years before the Indian speedsters blew away the West Indies top-order on the fourth day of the first Test here on Sunday.

Rahane scored a patient 102, but young batsman Hanuma Vihari (93) missed out on his maiden Test century as India declared its second innings at 343 for seven to set West Indies a stiff 419-run target.

Rahane and Vihari raised 135 for the fifth wicket after India lost skipper Virat Kohli (51) early on during the day.

Jasprit Bumrah and Ishant Sharma then ripped through the West Indies top-order to leave it gasping at 15 for five at tea.

Bumrah and Ishant exposed the feeble West Indies' batting line-up with their fiery spells as none of the home batsmen could reach double digits.

Bumrah removed the openers – Kraigg Brathwaite

(1) and John Campbell (7) – before casting Darren Bravo (2) with a beauty. Ishant joined the party, getting rid of Shamarh Brooks (2) and Shimron Hetmyer (1).

Earlier, Kohli's scalp did not help West Indies much as Rahane and Vihari gradually took the game away from them with their confident

batting. The moment Vihari miscued a pull which landed in the gloves of wicket-keeper Shai Hope, India declared its second innings.

It was Rahane's first Test hundred since his 132 against Sri Lanka in August 2017 while Vihari threw away a golden opportunity to get his.

SCOREBOARD	
<b>INDIA – 1ST INNINGS:</b> 297 <b>WEST INDIES –1ST INNINGS:</b> 222 <b>INDIA – 2ND INNINGS</b> K.L. Rahul b Chase 38 (85b, 4x4), Mayank Agarwal lbw b Chase 16 (43b, 2x4), Cheteshwar Pujara b Roach 25 (53b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Campbell b Chase 51 (113b, 2x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Holder b Gabriel 102 (242b, 5x4), G. Hanuma Vihari c Hope b Holder 93 (128b, 10x4, 1x6), Rishabh Pant c sub b Chase 7 (10b), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 1 (10b); Extras (b-6, lb-4): 10; Total (for seven wkts. decl., in 112.3 overs): 343. <b>FALL OF WICKETS</b> 1-30 (Agarwal, 13.2), 2-73 (Rahul, 29.2), 3-81 (Pujara, 30.5), 4-187 (Kohli, 73.4), 5-322 (Rahane, 107.6), 6-336 (Pant, 111.4), 7-343 (Vihari, 112.3).	<b>WEST INDIES BOWLING</b> Roach 20-8-29-1, Gabriel 16-3-63-1, Chase 38-5-132-4, Holder 18.3-4-45-1, Cummins 7-1-20-0, Campbell 6-0-20-0, Brathwaite 7-0-24-0. <b>WEST INDIES – 2ND INNINGS</b> Kraigg Brathwaite c Pant b Bumrah 1 (4b), John Campbell b Bumrah 7 (15b, 1x4), Shamarh Brooks lbw b Ishant 2 (5b), Darren Bravo b Bumrah 2 (10b), Shimron Hetmyer c Rahane b Ishant 1 (12b), Roston Chase (batting) 0; Extras (lb-1, nb-1): 2; Total (for five wkts., in 7.3 overs at Tea): 15. <b>FALL OF WICKETS</b> 1-7 (Brathwaite, 1.4), 2-10 (Campbell, 3.5), 3-10 (Brooks, 4.1), 4-13 (Hetmyer, 6.6), 5-15 (Bravo, 7.3). <b>INDIA BOWLING</b> Ishant 4-1-8-2, Bumrah 3.3-1-6-3.



**Full of confidence:** Rahane was in his element yet again while putting India in control. ■ AFP

## Aguero on 400 in City stroll

Newcastle stuns an insipid Tottenham Hotspurs

**EURO LEAGUES**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BOURNEMOUTH

Sergio Aguero reached 400 career goals with a clinical double as the Manchester City striker inspired the champion's 3-1 win at Bournemouth, while Tottenham suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Newcastle on Sunday.

Raheem Sterling was also on the scoresheet – making it six goals in four games this term for the England winger – as City's second win of the season lifted it to within two points of Liverpool.

It was a landmark day all round for City, with captain David Silva involved in all three of the goals on his 400th appearance for the club.

Meanwhile, Steve Bruce silenced his critics as Newcastle won at Tottenham to secure its first points under the polarising Magpies boss.

Since taking over from Rafael Benitez in the close-season, Bruce had found himself under pressure after losing his first two games,



**Star striker:** Sergio Aguero is ice cool as he slots in City's third past a maze of Bournemouth defenders. ■ REUTERS

with fans doubting his credentials and former players claiming his squad was uncertain about his methods.

But Joelinton's first goal for Newcastle in the 27th minute gave Bruce some breathing space for a few days at least.

**The results: Premier League:** Bournemouth 1 (H. Wilson 45+3) lost to Manchester City 3 (Aguero 15, 64, Sterling 43); Tottenham 0 lost to Newcastle 1 (Joelinton 27); Wolves 1 (Jimenex 90+5-pen) drew with Burnley 1 (Barnes 13).  
**Bundesliga:** RB Leipzig 2 (Werner 10, Poulsen 80) bt Ein-

tracht Frankfurt 1 (89 Paciencia); Hertha Berlin 0 lost to Wolfsburg 3 (Weghorst 9-pen, Brekalo 82, Roussillon 90+1).  
**Serie A:** Udinese 1 (Rodrigo 72) bt AC Milan 0.  
**Saturday: La Liga:** Osasuna 0 drew with Eibar 0; Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 82) drew with Real Valladolid 1 (Guardiola 88); Celta Vigo 1 (Fernandez 15) bt Valencia 0; Getafe 1 (Mata 12) drew with Athletic Bilbao 1 (Raul Garcia 6).  
**Serie A:** Fiorentina 3 (Pulgar 9-pen, Milenkovic 51, Boateng 65) lost to Napoli 4 (Mertens 38, Insigne 43-pen, 67, Callejon 56).