

# **Badminton Asia Team Championship: Indian Men stun China**

**PTI: February 18, 2016**



**HYDERABAD: Indian men made history here on Thursday by claiming their maiden victory over powerhouse China. The Indians won 3-2 in their last league encounter of the Badminton Asia Team Championships. The hosts had already made it to the quarterfinals both in the Men's and Women's categories.**

India (Men and Women) had never got past China in a team event of any tournament before this. Though the doubles teams failed to match their Chinese counterparts, all three singles players -Kidambi Srikanth, Ajay Jayaram and HS Prannoy -helped India to top the group. However, the women disappointed in the evening, suffering a 0-5 drubbing at the hands of Japan in Group D.

Kidambi Srikanth gave a rollicking start with a thumping victory over world No. 8 Tian Houwei 21-11, 17-21. The pair of Manu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy faltered, losing the first doubles tie to Li Junhui and Qiu Zihan 20-22, 11-21. However, world No. 25 Jayaram put India back on top with a hard-fought 22-20, 15-21, 21-18 win over Wang Zhengming.

China wiped off the deficit by winning the second doubles as Wang Yilv and Zhang Wen trounced Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Akshay Dewalkar 21-10, 21-18.

With the rubber tied at 2-2, HS Prannoy played like a champion and broke no sweat as he eased to a 21-14, 21-10 victory over Shi Yuqi.

India's win against China, a formidable force in World Badminton, made the Indian players and spectators erupt in joy with a huge round of applause. Chief National Coach Pullela Gopichand is a happy man following his wards win over China in the team event.

"I am very happy and thrilled to see our Men's Team pull off a superb victory over China. I am confident our Team will maintain the same tempo and momentum and laurels for our Country," he said.

Indian Team captain Kidambi Srikanth, who won the first singles tie and set the momentum rolling, added: "It was a close victory and I am happy that all the Team members performed well. I am confident that my Team will maintain the winning streak in the next matches."

**India would take on Malaysia in Men's category and Korea in Women's category in the Quarter finals of the ongoing Badminton Asia Team Championships at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium at Hyderabad tomorrow.**

**The line-up of matches for tomorrow was decided in the draw conducted tonight after the conclusion of day's matches.**

**Men: Korea vs China, Japan vs Chinese Taipei (both to begin at 4.30 PM); India vs Malaysia; Hong Kong China vs Indonesia (both at 11.30 AM)**

**Women: China vs Indonesia; Korea vs India (both at 4.30 PM); Malaysia vs Thailand, Chinese Taipei vs Japan (both at 11.30 AM).**

## **RESULTS:**

### **Men: Group A: India bt China 3-2**

- **K. Srikanth bt Houwei Tian 21-11, 21-17;**
- **Manu Attri & Sumeeth Reddy lost to Li Junhui & Qiu Zihan 20-22, 11-21;**
- **A Jayaram bt Wang Zhengming 22-20, 15-21, 21-18;**
- **Wang YilvZhang Wen bt P Jerry ChopraA Dewalkar 21-10, 21-18;**
- **HS Prannoy b Shi Yuqi 21-14, 21-10;**

### **Women: Group D: Japan bt India 5-0**

- **Nozomi Okuhara bt PV Sindhu 18-21, 21-12, 21-12;**
- **Sayaka Sato bt PC Thulasi 24-22, 21-14;**
- **Yui Hashimoto bt Ruthvika Shivani 23-25, 21-14, 21-14;**
- **Misaki Matsutomo & Ayaka Takahashi bt J Gutta & A Ponnappa 21-12, 21-18;**
- **Shizuka Matsuo & Mami Naito bt Sikki Reddy & PV Sindhu 18-21, 21-11, 21-16**

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