

India upset Malaysia to storm into Asian Badminton Championships Semi Finals

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Hyderabad: India's impressive run at the Badminton Asia Team Championships continued as the hosts booked a Semifinal berth with a hard fought 3-2 win over former Champions Malaysia in Hyderabad on Friday.

HS Prannoy won the deciding Singles after India and Malaysia were locked 2-2 in the five-match quarterfinals tie at the Gachibowli indoor stadium in Hyderabad.



(HS Prannoy won the deciding Singles)

Prannoy beat Teck Zhi Soo 21-12, 22-20 in a tense match to put India in the Semifinals which will be played on Sunday.

Prannoy, currently ranked 27, won the first game comfortably but his lower-ranked Malaysian rival came back strongly in the second game which turned out to be a battle of wits. Prannoy had the last laugh, narrowly winning the second game 22-20, which set off celebrations in the Indian camp.

Earlier, India's captain Kidambi Srikanth, who remained unbeaten in the group matches, was in his elements once again in the first singles match as he hardly broke a sweat in his 21-14, 21-15 win against Malaysia's Zulfadli Zulkifli, who is ranked 38.

India's Doubles pair of Manu Attri and Sumeet Reddy beat Juan Shen Low-Kiang Meng Tan 10-21, 22-20, 21-16 in the first Doubles match of the tie.

India, however, had a big disappointment with with Ajay Jayaram (ranked 25) losing to Iskandar Zulkarnain Zainuddin, who is ranked 39. Jayaram made several unforced errors and he eventually lost 21-17, 12-21, 16-21.

In the second Doubles match, Indian combine of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Akshay Dewalkar went down fighting to Malaysia's duo Yew Sin Ong and Ee Yi Tieo 14-21, 21-14, 12-21.
