

## **Rio Olympic 2016: PV Sindhu Assures India Of Silver Medal, Enters Badminton Singles Final**

**Playing her first Olympics, Sindhu beat three higher-ranked opponents en route a final berth - 8th ranked Tai Tzu-Ying of Taipei in the Round of 16, World No 2 Wang Yihan 2-0 in the Quarters and now 6th ranked Okuhara in Semis. The best part about them have been that all were won in straight games.**



P.V. Sindhu (IND) after winning her match against Nozomi Okuhara (JPN) of Japan.  
2016 Rio Olympics - Badminton - Women's Singles – Semifinals  
Riocentro - Pavilion 4 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - 18/08/2016.



PV Sindhu jumped when she smashed Nozomi Okuhara. Gold or silver medal-high in fact. Not only is jump-smashing rare in Women's Badminton — Coach Pullela Gopichand's instructions in the break were "jump and smash, jump and toss" — but for someone who towers over others and makes the court look smaller than it is, maxing the vertical reach was the surest sign of targeting the top medal after her 21-19, 21-10 win over Japan's Nozomi Okuhara.

Sindhu is on the brink of battling for an Olympic Gold; on the threshold to corner the glory that has eluded India for 13 whole days this Games, and for eight years since Abhinav Bindra.

The 21-year-old daughter of Vijaya and P V Ramana — both former Volleyball players — has assured India a top-two podium. Her final clash is with Spaniard Carolina Marin, the world's most dominant player over the last two years, though Sindhu has been in such rampaging form that Indians across the world can stop all that they are doing at 11 am Brazilian time on Friday.

Gopichand was in Sindhu's ear every moment of Thursday's match, feeding her game-plans, breaking down every small movement, reading the wind on which way Okuhara's game was heading.

Tall, long-legged, polite to a fault and whose game has been razor-sharp with relentless smashes, deft net-play and solid defense, Sindhu trashed all pre-game predictions to emerge on the final peak of the draw in a post-Chinese-domination world of Badminton.

Moreover, she has been in boot-camp mode with Gopichand, working over the last two months on her fitness and agility — two things that have stood out and are a mammoth departure from a year ago when she was still work in progress.

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