

## Prannoy and Sindhu triumph at All India Open Senior Ranking Badminton tournament in Kochi



(from left) Aparna Balan and Sikki Reddy (Women's Doubles), P.V. Sindhu (Women's Singles), Prannoy (Men's Singles), Akshay Dewalkar and Pranaav Jerry Chopra (Men's Doubles)

**KOCHI, February 03, 2014:** ONGC's H.S. Prannoy capped a fine run and lifted the Men's Singles title while BPCL's P.V. Sindhu won the Women's crown in the Manorama All India Open Senior Ranking Badminton Tournament here on Sunday evening.

After Saturday's semifinal storm, the singles finals turned out to be a quiet affair at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium. The Men's final, which pitted the fifth-seeded Prannoy against former National Champion Anup Sridhar, began promisingly with the latter leading 11-8 in the opening set but ended in a whimper with the former winning 21-13, 21-2.

The tall Anup used his height advantage well and came up with a smart strategy in the opening set. With a nice flick of his wrist, he confused Prannoy, forcing his younger opponent to run from side to side.

But once Prannoy levelled at 11 and took a 14-12 lead with a telling crosscourt smash and then followed it up with a net shot, Anup looked uncomfortable. And he was a mere spectator in the second set.

Meanwhile World No. 10 Sindhu began the tournament with one racket and ended with another — after signing a rich two-year contract with Li-Ning which came into effect on Saturday — but she looked comfortable despite the change in equipment and defeated P.C. Thulasi 21-11, 21-11.

In sharp contrast, all the three Doubles finals turned out be thrilling affairs and the packed stadium lapped it up with glee.

**The Results (finals):**

**Men Singles:** H.S. Prannoy (PSPB) bt Anup Sridhar (Ktk) 21-13, 21-2.

**Men Doubles:** Pranaav Jerry Chopra (PSPB) & Akshay Dewalkar (AI) bt Alwin Francis (Ker) & Arun Vishnu (PSPB) 21-9, 23-25, 21-19.

**Women Singles:** P.V. Sindhu (PSPB) bt P.C. Thulasi (Ker) 21-11, 21-11.

**Women Doubles:** Aparna Balan (PSPB) & N. Sikki Reddy (AAI) bt Prajakta Sawant (PSPB)/Arathi Sara Sunil (Ker) 21-16, 21-13.

**Mixed Doubles:** Arun Vishnu & Aparna Balan (PSPB) bt Sanave Thomas (Ker) & Prajakta Sawant (PSPB) 21-18, 21-18.

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