

Sports Ministry recommends shuttler Sindhu for Padma Bhushan



P V thanks Sports Ministry

NEW DELHI, SEP 25 /- Olympic silver medalist shuttler P V Sindhu has been recommended for the prestigious Padma Bhushan, country's third highest civilian award, by the Sports Ministry here on Monday. "Yes, we have recommended Sindhu for Padma Bhushan," a Sports Ministry official told PTI. A two-time bronze medalist at World Championship, Sindhu has been simply unstoppable ever since becoming the first Indian to win a silver at Rio Games last year. The 22-year-old from Hyderabad clinched the 2016 China Open Super Series Premier, India Open Super Series, bagged a historic silver at the Glasgow World Championship last month before laying claim to her third Super Series title at Korea Open this month. A

three-time Macau Open champion, Sindhu also won the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold in Lucknow this year. Riding on a series of good performances, Sindhu achieved a career-best world ranking of number two in April for a brief period. Last week, she climbed back to her number two position, following a good week at Seoul. In 2014, Sindhu won four bronze medals at the Commonwealth Games, Incheon Asian Games, Uber Cup and Asia Championship. In March 2015, Sindhu was awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri. Elated at being nominated for the country's third highest civilian honour - Padma Bhushan - Rio Olympics silver medalist shuttler P V Sindhu on Monday thanked the Sports

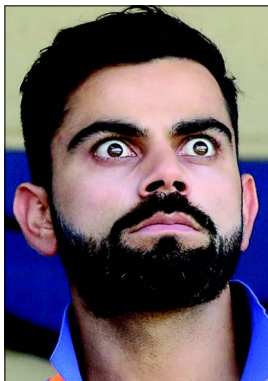
"I am very happy that my name has been recommended for the Padma Bhushan. I would like to thank the government and the Sports Ministry"

Ministry for the recommendation. The 22-year-old Sindhu now joins former India cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni as the second sports person to be nominated for the prestigious award this year. "I am very happy that my

name has been recommended for the Padma Bhushan. I would like to thank the government and the Sports Ministry," Sindhu said. The Hyderabad player was conferred the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award - the highest sporting honour in India - in 2016 and the Padma Shri in 2015. Sindhu, who was also a silver medalist at the World Badminton Championships in Glasgow last month, recently beat Japan's Nozomi Okuhara to become the first Indian shuttler to clinch the Korea Open Super Series title. Sindhu, who recently scaled to the No.2 spot in women's singles at the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings was, however, stunned by Nozomi in the pre-quarterfinals of the Japan Open Super Series last week. (PTI)

Kohli urges high-flying India to be 'ruthless'

NEW DELHI, SEP 25 /- Captain Virat Kohli has called on his players to be "ruthless" after the crushing one-day series win over Australia took India top of the world one-day rankings to add to their number one Test status. A five-wicket win in the third game of the five-match series on Sunday gave India an unassailable 3-0 lead over Steve Smith's Australia. It also stretched India's winning streak to a record 12 matches across all formats. Kohli's side has been on a roll for the past year since regaining the number one Test spot with a 3-0 home whitewash of New Zealand. The in-form captain has led from the front with 1,137 runs in 21 50-over matches this year, ahead of South Africa's Faf du Plessis as the highest one-day scorer in 2017. Kohli praised his team after the latest win against the once mighty Australians, who have been outplayed in India. Smith's team also lost a Test series 1-2 in India this year. "Credit to the whole squad for the series win, but the journey stops only after the final game," said Kohli, the top ODI and T20 batsman in the International Cricket Council (ICC) ratings. "We may give opportunities to other players from now, but all 15 guys know that we got to be ruthless once we step onto the field," Kohli added. The series has seen new Indian stars emerge, with all-rounder Hardik Pandya and left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav making an instant impact. While Pandya's crucial 78 led the team's run chase in Indore, Yadav impressed with his maiden hat-trick in the second international. However legendary spinner Bishan Singh Bedi believes India have not been tested by opposition teams, barring the Champions Trophy final in June against Pakistan which they lost by 180 runs. India won 10 of their 13 Tests on home soil in the 2016-17 season and then went on to rout hosts Sri Lanka over nine games in all three formats.



Rain threat looms

large over fourth ODI
BENGALURU, SEP 25 /- Rain threat looms large over the fourth ODI between India and Australia on Thursday with the weathermen predicting spells of thundershowers in the next 24 to 48 hours. In the last 24 hours, many parts of the city had witnessed heavy rain with the met department recording a 54 mm of rainfall. As per weathermen, good rains of moderate to heavy intensity will continue in next 24 to 48 hours. The curators at the Chinnaswamy Stadium are taking every step to keep the pitch dry to avoid a shortened game. The stadium, however, has a cutting-edge technology to deal with wet conditions. The technology helps umpires to resume the match quickly even after heavy rain. Rains have been chasing both India and Australia. In Kolkata, both teams had to practice indoors.

Steve Smith laments 'pretty ordinary' record in 2017

MELBOURNE, SEP 25 /- Steve Smith has said his side's record in 2017 is unacceptable for an Australian cricket team in the wake of the one-day international series loss to India. Australia's five-wicket defeat in Indore saw them fall 0-3 behind in the five-match series, and was their 11th loss in their past 13 ODIs away from home. The other two matches were rain-affected no results. With the Ashes looming in two months, the Australia skipper said his team needed to get back to winning ways fast. "It's a different format (to the Ashes) but I'd certainly like to start winning some games of cricket in every format to be honest," Smith told reporters. "It's pretty ordinary. Not good enough for an Australian cricket team and we need to start turning the results around and winning some games." "It's been a bit of a trend for this format and the Test format as well. "We're



"It's a different format (to the Ashes) but I'd certainly like to start winning some games of cricket in every format to be honest"

quite often getting ourselves into good positions and we're not taking advantage of those and today was no different." Australia have won just three out of 17 matches across all three formats since the ODI series victory at home against

Pakistan in January. Smith's men will be keen to break their win drought, mindful that an ODI series whitewash away to South Africa last year preceded the 1-2 Test series defeat against the same opponents on home soil.

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